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Near East & South Asia

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LD251423 [Editorial Report]

Western Sahara

The SDAR announced that Saharan forces will begin a 20-day unilateral cease-fire 25 November in order to guarantee the safety of the UN-OAU technical mission and facilitate its task, Algiers radio reported. The SDAR said this "act of goodwill" will entail a cessation of all military action against Moroccan forces in their current positions, both in the Western Sahara and in southern Morocco.

Chad

Chadian forces intercepted a large column of Libya's "Islamic Legion" which entered Chadian territory from western Sudan over the weekend, the FANT command announced in a communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio. After "violent fighting," the enemy withdrew to Sudan, leaving five of their men dead on the battlefield, the Chadian command added. Despite Sudan's denials, this incident provides a "clear illustration of the activities of Al-Qadhdhafi's legion with Sudanese complicity," the communique said, adding that the Libyan incursion is all the more serious as it "dangerously compromises the cease-fire." The FANT reserves the right to pursue the enemy if Sudan fails to end the Islamic Legion's activities on its soil, the communique warned.

Libya

Libya has called on the United Nations to put an end to the "discriminatory" treatment received by the Jamahiriyah's UN mission in the United States, JANA reported. A Libyan statement to a UN committee accused the United States of obstructing and harassing the Libyan mission in New York in an attempt to hinder its work.

Sudan

Mobilization—Emphasizing the need to harness all resources to retrieve Kurmuk, the State Council decided to activate measures for "general mobilization," SUNA reported. The Council also decided to establish civil defense units and a national fund to support the Armed Forces.

Debts—The finance minister announced that the government has approved a strategy whereby Sudan will seek to write off or reschedule its debts to foreign governments and financial institutions, according to SUNA.

Tunisia

Foreign Relations—In a press statement cited by KUNA, Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri confirmed that his 21 November talks with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealt with the normalization of relations, and he said the two countries are making progress toward the restoration of full relations. Libya has paid its debts to Tunisia, he disclosed, and the two sides have already restored relations at the consular level.

In another development, Tunis radio noted that President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, for talks on Arab and international affairs.

Internal Reform—"Purges and reforms" are needed to rejuvenate the Destourian Socialist Party, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche stated in an interview with the Cairo magazine *Uktubar*. He deplored the presence of "many mercenaries and opportunists" in the ranks of the ruling party. Baccouche also emphasized the new administration's commitment to establish a multi-party system and to make the presidency an elective post.

Jordanian Diplomacy

King Husayn arrived in Damascus 25 November on a working visit during which he will hold talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on implementing the resolutions of the recent Arab summit, Amman radio reported. The Jordanian foreign minister had earlier disclosed that Husayn would visit Syria and Iraq this week in an attempt to secure direct contacts between the leaders of the two countries and to pave the way for normalization of Syrian-Iraqi relations, according to the *Jordan Times*.

Romanian Diplomacy

During their talks in Cairo, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu expressed satisfaction with their "identical" stands on international issues and the Middle East problem, the Egyptian information minister noted in a statement reported by MENA. Mubarak accepted an invitation to visit Romania and promised to make the visit as soon as possible, the official added.

Meanwhile, Damascus radio announced that President al-Asad will pay an official visit to Romania at the end of November.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian Raid—Iranian aircraft bombed a bridge and supply route in Iraq's Al-'Amarah Province 25 November, IRNA reported.

Japanese Diplomacy—During Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's talks in Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita called on Iran to accept UN

Security Council Resolution 598 and to take a "flexible" attitude in discussions with the UN secretary general, *Kyodo* reported. Velayati said Iran will continue to cooperate with the secretary general in discussing ways to end the war. An IRNA report on the Iranian minister's talks with his Japanese counterpart noted that Velayati "commented on the weak points" of Resolution 598, adding that he accused "some countries" of seeking to impose peace on Iran just as they imposed war on it.

In Baghdad, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz received visiting Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama for talks on bilateral relations, the regional situation, and issues of mutual interest, Baghdad radio noted.

Alleged U.S.-Iran Talks—In an "exclusive" 25 November report, the Amman paper *Al-Ra'y* claimed that preparations are under way for a U.S.-Iranian meeting in Geneva next week. Citing "well-connected sources" in Geneva, the paper said this follows an Iranian offer to send a delegation to meet with Secretary of State George Shultz. The latter declined to meet the Iranian delegation, *Al-Ra'y* added, but preparations for the arrival of Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci indicate that he will be involved in the meeting.

Afghanistan

Kabul radio announced three new appointments to positions in the Council of Ministers, including that of Muhammad 'Aziz as deputy chairman of the Council. The other appointments were for ministers of nationalities affairs, and higher and vocational education.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria Seen Seeking Pretext To Break With Iran

PM250931 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 21 Nov 87 pp 7, 8

[Khalid Muhadin Report: "Syria Gradually Moving Away From Iran; Damascus Awaiting Tehran's Provocation"]

[Excerpts] Observers would not differ on the fact that by any standard the success of the Amman extraordinary summit was outstanding. But the glow of this success can only continue if the summit's resolutions are implemented. Among the most important things which the Arabs are hoping to implement is the Iraq-Syria reconciliation, which observers described to *Al-Tadamun* as subject to a gradual Syrian change toward the relationship with Iran. Damascus is awaiting a provocation from Tehran so that a Syrian-Iranian divorce can take place. [passage omitted]

Practice will show the extent of commitment to the Amman summit's resolutions. Some resolutions will take time to implement, but early indications show that everything is proceeding in the right direction, especially with regard to Iraqi-Syrian relations. A Western observer told *Al-Tadamun*: "You must not expect a complete Syrian change immediately when resolutions are issued. Many preliminary steps are required. There are three problems in Syrian-Iranian relations that demand extreme caution when dealt with; namely, Iranian oil, Iranian debts, and the Iranian presence in Lebanon."

The observer added: "Information released from the summit indicates that Arab leaders have taken a firm decision with regard to compensating Syria and settling the issues of oil and debts; a decision was taken to pay Syria $2.5 billion a year. As for the third issue, it is the most difficult and complicated one."

With regard to the same issue, a Jordanian politician told *Al-Tadamun*: "Damascus will play its cards in the Lebanese arena and will eventually succeed, since most Lebanese, including those in disputes, are ready to confront this Iranian presence should Iran decide to play with fire. The first step urges the need to block any further increase; the second step is to besiege this presence—a step which is not difficult for the Syrians or the Lebanese."

Some observers in Amman think that the Syrian change will be more rapid than many expect. Although Damascus will keep calm and cautious in its relations with Tehran, the provocative official Iranian mentality will push matters in another direction. One thing is certain; namely, that any Iranian provocation against Damascus will be welcomed in Syrian circles, since this would provide the opportunity to sever Syrian-Iranian relations both rapidly and dramatically.

We should also refer to another reconciliation that took place on the sidelines of the summit without any mediations; that is, the reconciliation between the state of Bahrain and the state of Qatar. It seems that the atmosphere of reconciliation that prevailed at the summit, as well as the sense of pan-Arabism which overshadowed differences, resulted in this brotherly reconciliation which took place away from the limelight.

As for Jordanian-Palestinian relations, information released so far indicates that nothing much has been achieved with regard to the resumption of coordination. At the press conference held at the end of the summit, King Husayn was content to stress: "We are ready to continue dialogue and joint efforts starting from the point at which we stopped. We have no desire or readiness to return to square one. We have already done that repeatedly in the past." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Official on Amman Summit, Iraqi Stands

JN241358 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Ribhi Hallum, head of the PLO office and doyen of the Arab diplomatic corps in Turkey, has praised leader President Saddam Husayn's support for the Palestinian question, as well as his strong concern about independent Palestinian decisionmaking and making this question one of Iraq's primary concerns despite its confrontation with the criminal Iranian aggression, which has been going on for several years.

Addressing a news conference in Ankara today devoted to discussing the results of the Amman summit, the doyen of the Arab diplomatic corps said that the continuous Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Arab Gulf countries and the developments of the Palestinian question were among the most important topics discussed at the Arab summit.

Hallum affirmed that the Tehran and Zionist rulers are two faces of the same coin. They are inwardly linked by their historic common hatred of the Arabs. He said: The Amman summit succeeded in achieving a unified Arab stand toward the Iranian regime and the Zionist entity.

The Palestinian official hailed Iraq's principled stands, whether by supporting UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the Iraq-Iran war, by cooperating in a great humanitarian spirit with all the efforts to achieve peace, or by strongly confronting the vile Iranian aggression, which is primarily aimed at Arab existence. [Baghdad *Al-Jumhuriyah* in Arabic in its 21 November issue, pages 1 and 11, carries an Ankara datelined INA dispatch which includes the above and adds:

"Hallum held the Iranian rulers responsible for the continuation of the war and also for expanding its scope to include a number of states in the region. He added that the scandal of cooperation between the Zionist entity and the Iranian regime in various fields is a clear indicator of the conspiracy against the Arab nation.

"Hallum described the restoration of relations between the Arab states and Egypt as one of the important results of the Amman summit, adding: This is because we the Arabs are fully convinced that Iraq and Egypt represent the two wings and basic weight of the Arab nation. The Arabs cannot achieve their national and pan-Arab interests without these two wings. Thus, we the Arabs are called upon to support Iraq against the Iranian aggression and also to support Egypt and work anew for its return to the Arab nation's fold."]

Israeli Military Bus Attacked Near Bethlehem

JN241909 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Our heroes from the martyr Murad 'Abd al-Ra'uf group operating inside the occupied homeland have carried out a heroic operation against a Zionist military bus near Rachel's Tomb in the Bethlehem area as follows:

At 1115 on 22 November 1987, our heroes made an incendiary bomb attack against an enemy military bus near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem. They damaged the bus and wounded many enemy soldiers. The enemy radio admitted that one of the soldiers was wounded.

Immediately after the operation, the occupation authorities sent a large army and police force to the scene. They besieged the area and began a large-scale search of the scene, including the Palestinian camp of 'Aydah. They arrested numerous Palestinian citizens on the pretext of connection with the operation. Our revolutionaries returned safely to base.

Amal Movement Attack on Shatila Camp Wounds 2

JN241839 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Nov 87

["Text" of military communique issued by the PLO on 24 November; place not given]

[Text] In an attempt to explode the security and military situation in the Palestinian camps area, some Amal Movement elements opened fire with machineguns and missiles indiscriminately at the various axes of Shatila at 1330 the day before yesterday. The shelling wounded two civilians in the camp. Such suspect attempts by these gangs are part of the Zionist-U.S. plan to expel our people from their camps and divide Lebanon into sectarian statelets to balkanize the Arab region.

Algeria

Political Bureau Reviews Sahara, Arab Summit

LD242143 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] In implementation of the program approved by the party congress and the sessions of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau expressed satisfaction with the involvement on a large scale of the workers, the agriculture cadres, and the cadres of economic establishments in the structural changes introduced into the running of these sectors for the maximum exploitation of the production and productivity capabilities through the shouldering of the maximum degree of responsibility by the producers.

The Political Bureau discussed the draft agenda for the 19th session of the Central Committee to be held on 21 December 1987. The Political Bureau heard a series of reports on Algeria's regional and international activity and discussed developments in the Arab Maghreb arena in light of the dynamism of consultation generated by the initiative of President Chadli Bendjedid in agreement with the political leadership of sister countries in the region.

While it appreciates the progress recorded in securing conditions for the success of this initiative, the Political Bureau reiterated Algeria's belief in the unionist edification of the great Arab Maghreb and its commitment to the continuation of its efforts in this historic action.

The Political Bureau reaffirmed Algeria's adherence to the Treaty of Fraternity and Concord in its capacity as a significant step on the road to the edification of the Arab Maghreb. It confirmed the need to continually consolidate its foundations in its capacity as a framework for the achievement of more progress in this direction through the development of political coordination and the advancement of economic integration among member countries within the context of a vision including the entire region.

The Political Bureau confirmed once again that the Western Sahara dispute constitutes the main obstacle to the speeding up of the edification of the great Arab Maghreb. While it renews Algeria's constant commitment to finding a peaceful solution to this conflict in line with the desire of the United Nations, the Political Bureau reaffirms its support for the good-office's efforts being carried out by the current OAU chairman and the UN secretary general, especially under circumstances in which the technical mission sent by the two to the Western Sahara has to collect the necessary material facts in order to organize a referendum away from administrative and military restrictions and pressures, whose conditions should be negotiated by both sides.

The Political Bureau expressed the conviction that the constitutional changes recently witnessed by sister Tunisia will allow its people to continue their march toward progress, prosperity, and stability through their effective participation in the unionist edification of the great Arab Maghreb.

The Political Bureau praised the work of President Habib Bourguiba whose decisive contribution to the achievements of Tunisia's national independence was recorded in letters of gold by the country and whose support for Algeria during the ordeal of the war of national liberation has not and will not be forgotten by Algeria. The Political Bureau highlighted the sentiments of fraternity it harbors for the Tunisian people and its new leadership, to whom has been given the noble task of garnering further achievements. Algeria is certain that those achievements will serve the well-being of the Tunisian people and, subsequently, the entire Arab Maghreb. The Political Bureau confirms to Tunisia Algeria's assistance and support in carrying out this task.

The Political Bureau then began to evaluate the results of the extraordinary Arab summit that was held in Amman and saluted Jordan, which had made persistent efforts enabling the Arab nation to reunite under circumstances that are decisive in relation to its future.

The Political Bureau recorded with satisfaction the role played by Algeria through the person of the president of the Republic and secretary general of the party in the clearing of the Arab political atmosphere through initiatives aimed at the settlement of Arab differences that scatter and weaken joint Arab action.

In accordance with the Arab desire for peace which was expressed in Amman, the Political Bureau expressed Algeria's hope of seeing a just, speedy, and honorable solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict which will enable the Islamic group to unite its forces and direct them toward collective solidarity by removing the challenges confronting it.

In this respect, the Political Bureau expressed its encouragement for the peace effort being exerted by the UN secretary general for achieving peace, finding a peaceful settlement to the Iraq-Iran conflict, and maintaining stability in the region and international peace and security.

The Political Bureau praised the common Arab attitude expressed in Amman with regard to the conditions for achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, in particular vis-a-vis holding an international conference on peace under UN auspices in its capacity as the framework allowing for the realization of all the national rights of the Palestinian people, including the establishment of an independent state, and the participation on an equal footing of the PLO in its capacity as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Ibrahimi Receives Shevardnadze Message

LD240202 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, received at Foreign Ministry headquarters today Mr Vasiliy Taratuta, USSR ambassador to Algeria. Mr Taratuta conveyed to Dr Ahmed Ibrahimi a message from the head of Soviet diplomacy, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze. The meeting enabled the two sides to discuss bilateral relations and to exchange views on political issues of mutual interest.

Chad

Clash With Libyans Reported Near Sudan Border

AB241908 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1850 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Communique No 96 issued by the FANT High Command in Ndjamena on 24 November]

[Text] During the weekend of Saturday, 21 November, to Sunday, 22 November, a large column of the Libyan Islamic legion penetrated Chadian territory from Sudan opposite (Ajer Marfayin), in the Koulbous region. The valiant and worthy fighters of the FANT intercepted this formation. Following the violent combat that ensued, the enemy withdrew to Sudan. They left five dead on the battlefield and took several wounded soldiers with them.

The Chadian Government has for several months now drawn the attention of public opinion to the Libyan activities in Sudan's Darfur Province. Despite the denials of Khartoum, we now posses a clear illustration both of the activities of Al-Qadhdhafi's legion and Sudanese complicity. This is all the more serious since this act of aggression, along with the repeated violation of Chadian airspace by the Libyan Air Force, dangerously compromises the cease-fire. It also badly harms all efforts by the OAU to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Chad-Libya conflict. The FANT reserves the legitimate right to pursue the enemy if Sudan does not put a stop to the activities of the Islamic legion on its territory.

Sudanese, Algerian Role Deplored

AB242027 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] There are two things to note about this new act of Libyan aggression, which also is a blatant violation of the cease-fire. First of all, the direct involvement and responsibility of foreign countries, particularly Sudan, in this conflict. Second, the obvious desire of the Libyan regime to undermine the summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa. This will open in Ndjamena in the coming weeks.

Concerning this second point, we recently said that the disgraced regime of Tripoli, which has been boycotted by Arab and African countries, has not succeeded in hosting, as it had hoped, Arab or African summits for many years. [passage omitted]

The other point is the direct involvement of Sudan in the conflict. This participation continues in spite of the incessant appeals to Sudanese officials to remain neutral in this conflict. Obviously, nothing can be expected from the regime of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi since it is so strongly attached to the Libyan policy. There is also the involvement of Algeria. Despite the denials of its officials over the past few days, it has a group of pilots in Libya helping to carry out Libyan air attacks against Chad. This allegation has not been denied.

Chad, in once again deploring the attitude of Algiers and Khartoum—their stands are likely to undermine efforts for peace between Libya and Chad—reaffirms its strong desire to live in perfect harmony with all states in the region, including Libya. Chad, which is located between the black African and the Arab worlds—and is therefore a very important link between them both—cannot benefit from being at loggerheads with the countries of the region. Instead, sincere cooperation in an atmosphere of peace will assist it in all respects. This is why Chad has persistently sought to live in peace with Libya.

As for the two states, the war will end tomorrow if we accept each other and recognize each other's rights. This is the message that the Chadian Government has on many occasions given Libya. Tripoli's allies, who are making poorly timed statements and displaying partisan attitudes, are far from helping to understand the legitimate concerns of the Chadian people. They are instead seriously impeding a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

Egypt

Mubarak Refuses To Convince Husayn of Talks

JN240838 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 22 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo—*Al-Qabas* has learned from informed sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that President Husni Mubarak has refused to exert efforts to convince King Husayn of Jordan to accept a U.S. proposal to hold Jordanian-Israeli negotiations under superpower auspices.

The sources said that President Mubarak affirmed Egypt's adherence to an international conference as the only formula for the time being. This formula is accepted by the majority of parties concerned in the Middle East conflict, by certain Israeli political forces, and by the international community.

The sources pointed out that President Mubarak had informed PNC speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, during his recent visit to Cairo, of Egypt's rejection of all U.S. and Israeli alternative proposals to holding an

international conference—proposals aimed at preventing PLO representation in the settlement negotiations. Mubarak also stressed to him the need to resume coordination with Jordan and to unify the viewpoints of the Palestinian organization on Palestinian representation at settlement negotiations.

Shamir's Opposition to Conference Denounced

NC242232 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2052 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—In an editorial appearing in Wednesday's edition, *Al-Akhbar* denounces Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's position regarding the issue of an international conference to discuss peace in the Middle East. It criticizes his insistent opposition to every call to convene such a meeting. Such opposition, the paper notes, is based on the feeble pretext that the region's disputes cannot be resolved except through direct and separate talks between Israel and every concerned Arab country.

Under the title "The Grave Consequences of Obstructing the Peace Conference," the editorial states that the Israeli prime minister's stance conceals objectives totally unconnected with any true desire for peace. It adds that Shamir's views regarding his refusal to give back any part of the occupied Arab territories are clear and well-known. His concept of peace envisions Israel keeping all of the territories which it had occupied by force. This concept primarily indicates that riots, tension, and brutal acts of repression by Tel Aviv's forces will continue. It also signifies the continuation of the incessant attempts to arbitrarily confiscate whatever land in the West Bank and Gaza remains in the possession of the Palestinians. These attempts aim to eliminate all remaining features of the Arab identity in Palestine so that it will revert in its entirety to the Jews.

Al-Akhbar says that Yitzhaq Shamir's obstinacy and solitary opposition to the widespread support for an international conference signifies his desire to perpetuate the grave situation in the Middle East, which might erupt at any moment. The paper notes that if such an eruption takes place, Israel itself will not be spared the consequences.

The paper highlights President Husni Mubarak and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's reference, during their talks, to the importance of achieving tangible progress in the peace efforts in the Middle East without delay, so that the opportunity to attain a historic reconciliation between Israel and the various Arab parties would not be lost, as such an opportunity may not come again.

Party Leader on Restoration of Arab Ties

PM241247 Cairo AL-SHAB in Arabic 17 Nov 87 pp 1, 2

[Article by Socialist Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri: "Arab Flags Fly on Struggle Day"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Arab flags are once again flying over Cairo. This step pleases every Arab, Muslim, and sincere and conscious person, especially as the estrangement had continued for nearly 10 years. During this time, unjust elements mobilized people against their brothers, attacked Arabs and their countries, spreaded isolationist ideas, and claimed that an Arab can live in peace away from his Arab brothers in other states.

We, who have never given up warning against the dangers of estrangement and its consequences, are today pleased because unity among Arabs means strength, which will automatically be reflected in international circles, thus restoring to the Arabs their unified stand before friends and enemies. We are also pleased because the correction of Arab relations means defeat for U.S. and Zionist schemes, whose proponents have gambled on the continuation of isolation and isolationism among Arabs so that they could get them, one by one. Correcting Arab relations will certainly imperil whatever the Zionist enemy has managed to achieve so that its evil can be eliminated.

Those who fear that the correction of Arab relations might increase the chances of Zionist infiltration in the Arab world are mistaken, because when the Arabs, both in Egypt and outside Egypt, meet, enemies and rivals retreat. The cohesion of the Arab masses will strengthen the position of official leaderships in confronting all pressures. Consequently, this will reflect on calculations of power and weakness and officials will not hesitate in taking further steps toward realizing the objectives and dreams of the Arab masses.

True, recent steps were taken within the framework of bilateral relations between Egypt and other Arab states; true, it would have been more appropriate and beneficial if the whole matter had been dealt with through a comprehensive Arab vision and a single Arab framework, that is, the Arab League; but these steps, though taken within bilateral relations, constitute a step forward toward the return of effective Arab institutions.

In order to achieve this, the Egyptian leadership has to perform a duty; namely, to act on the basis of this comprehensive Arab vision, not on the basis of bilateral relations only. This would help the steps taken to survive and develop into comprehensive Arab action. It would also guarantee for Egypt its vanguard, responsible, and free role. In this regard, support for the Palestinian position and the Palestinian people's struggle would be the action that would unite Arabs and advance their prime cause; namely, the Palestinian cause, mobilizing international powers to restore the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, primarily their right to return, their right to self-determination, and their right to establish an independent Palestinian state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Recent steps impose on everyone direct and numerous duties. The question of Arab solidarity does not concern rulers alone; indeed, it concerns all sincere sons of this nation. As I have already explained to my brothers in the People's Assembly General Committee, recent decisions to restore diplomatic relations with a number of Arab states have in fact imposed on us the need to move at all levels in order to protect and develop these steps. [passage omitted]

Romanian President Continues Talks, Departs

Information Minister on Talks

NC241350 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Nicolae Ceausescu emphasized the strong ties of friendship between Egypt and Romania and their peoples and also the cordial relations between the two presidents.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following the expanded round of talks, which was chaired by the two presidents and attended by members of both delegations. Al-Sharif said that the presidents reviewed the international issues they had discussed during their closed session earlier today. They expressed satisfaction with the idential stands on these international issues and the Middle East problem. The two presidents also stressed their countries' desire to intensify efforts to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East issue. The Romanian president expressed satisfaction with the positive results of the Amman summit and praised the restoration of Arab-Egyptian relations.

Safwat al-Sharif added that Presidents Mubarak and Ceausescu had stressed their agreement on the importance of solving international problems through negotiations among the parties involved. The president of Romania recalled during this expanded session his meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The information minister said that the two presidents had discussed developments in the Iraq-Iran war and stressed the importance of exerting all efforts to stop this war and to reach a settlement between the two countries through negotiations.

The two presidents also touched on some international topics, including disarmament, reduction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles, the ban on nuclear tests, and the efforts being made to reach an agreement in this respect between the two superpowers. The two leaders' talks also dealt with issues of interest to Third World countries and foreign debt.

Minister al-Sharif added that the Romanian president has invited President and Mrs Mubarak to visit Romania. President Mubarak has accepted the invitation and promised to pay the visit as soon as possible. Al-Sharif said that during the expanded session the presidents discussed topics that had been dealt with previously, reviewing the viewpoints exchanged during the meetings held on the preidential level, particularly those dealing with bilateral relations, international topics, and regional issues.

The presidents expressed satisfaction with the relations existing between the two countries, a topic which has been discussed at length during the talks, and pointed out the need to exchange views on ways to promote these relations and expand the scope of cooperation between the two countries. The two presidents noted that the discussion had dealt with economic, trade, scientific, technical, cultural, and other issues.

Minister al-Sharif added that Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Oprea had spoken during the session. Dr 'Atif Sidqi submitted a report on relations between the two countries, as well as the talks held between the delegations on economic, trade, and foreign relations levels.

Concluding his statement, the information minister said that the final draft of the bilateral protocol to be signed by the two presidents tomorrow morning had been agreed upon. He noted that the delegations from the two countries will put the final touches on the formulation of the joint communique on the Romanian president's visit and the talks held on the presidential level, which is expected to be issued tomorrow.

Loan Agreement Signed

NC242246 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] A $200 million [figure as heard] loan agreement between Egypt and Romania was signed at the prime minister's office this evening. The loan will be used to finance Egyptian development projects. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi signed the agreement on behalf of Egypt while Gheorghe Oprea, Romanian first deputy prime minister, signed for Romania.

After the agreement was signed, Dr Sidqi praised the strong ties between Egypt and Romania and between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Nicolae Ceausescu. He said this agreement will open new spheres for bilateral cooperation. Dr Sidqi also expressed good wishes to the Romanian people.

The depth of Egyptian-Romanian relations in all fields was stressed by Mr Gheorghe Oprea when he spoke at the ceremony. The signing ceremony was attended by Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and some members of the Romanian delegation accompanying President Ceausescu.

Points of Joint Communique

NC251125 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu have expressed the importance of achieving a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the Middle East. This peace should be based on Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967, recognition of the Palestinian people's right to determine their fate and establish their own state, and a guarantee of the security and sovereignty of all states in the region, they said.

The two presidents have also emphasized the importance of holding an international conference as soon as possible under UN auspices, with the participation of all parties concerned including the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, and the permanent members of the Security Council.

These points are included in the joint communique which was issued today after the visit which President Ceausescu paid to Egypt from 23 to 25 November at the invitation of President Mubarak.

In the communique, the two presidents express their deep concern over recent developments in the Gulf area. They demand that special measures be adopted to implement Security Council Resolution 598, to solve all problems between Iraq and Iran through negotiations, and to guarantee the freedom of navigation in this area.

The two presidents also voice their appreciation of the achievements of both countries in the field of development. They reiterate their determination to bolster relations in all fields, in the interests of the two friendly peoples.

During the visit, a long-term economic, technical, and commercial cooperation agreement was signed by the two countries. The agreement is valid until the year 2000. Another agreement was signed according to which the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania will provide credit facilities to increase its participation in development projects in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The two presidents undertook a full review of international issues. They stress that the arms race and nuclear tests must stop and they emphasize the need for disarmament, particularly in the field of nuclear weapons, which threaten all mankind. In this regard the two presidents welcome the understanding in principle between the United States and the Soviet Union to reach an agreement on eliminating medium- and short-range missiles, hoping that this will pave the way for new agreements providing for the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons.

The two presidents further demand that outer space be used for peaceful purposes in the interests of all mankind.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the two presidents emphasized the importance of intensifying efforts to end foreign interference in Lebanon's internal affairs, to achieve national reconciliation among the political forces in the country, and to ensure the unity, independence, and freedom of the Lebanese people.

The two presidents express their solidarity with the struggle of the African people, denounce the South African Government's racist practices and repeated acts of aggression against its neighboring states, and call for putting forth efforts to achieve Namibia's independence according to UN resolutions.

In the communique, the two presidents note the importance of establishing a new international economic system and of solving the debt problem of the developing states. They call for a conference of debtor states to be held to prepare for the convening of a conference for the debtors and creditors. This conference will discuss a solution to the debt problem that will take into consideration the available resources for repaying these debts to the creditor countries and for ensuring the debtor countries' economic and social progress.

The two presidents also focus on the important role of the United Nations as an international forum for democratic debate and for solving the problems of our contemporary world.

President Ceausescu praises the role of the nonaligned states and the resolutions of the recent Harare summit conference.

The two presidents state their complete satisfaction with the outcome of their talks, which will lead to enhanced ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

President Ceausescu expresses in the communique his profound thanks for the cordial reception accorded him during the visit. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has accepted President Ceausescu's invitation to visit Romania, the date of which will be decided through diplomatic channels.

Protocol Signed; Ceausescu Departs

NC250850 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Presidents Husni Mubarak and Nicolae Ceausescu signed a protocol for international cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Socialist Republic of Romania at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning. Members of the Egyptian and Romanian delegations attended the signing of the agreement.

An official farewell ceremony was also held at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis this morning on the occasion of the departure of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. The distinguished Romanian guest was seen off by President Mubarak, the speaker of the People's Assembly, the president of the Consultative Council, deputy prime ministers, ministers, officials, and the Romanian Embassy staff.

Ghali Confers With African Ambassadors

NC241833 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this evening with African ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions in Cairo. During the meeting, Dr Ghali and the African ambassadors reviewed the latest developments in the African arena, the results of African-Egyptian contacts, and the recent visits by African officials to Egypt. Foremost among these visits were the Beninese foreign minister's visit and the joint Egyptian-Beninese committee meetings.

The conferees also discussed the preparations being made for the extraordinary summit scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa on 30 November. The issue of the African countries' debts and Egypt's stand toward this will be discussed at that 2-day conference.

Dr Ghali spoke about the upcoming meetings of the Egyptian-Malagasy committee, scheduled for 3 to 8 December. In addition, he discussed Egypt's participation in the 14th African-French summit in France on 10 and 11 December

Minister Leaves for Addis Ababa Meeting

NC250651 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, left Cairo early this morning for Addis Ababa, where he will attend the meetings of African economy ministers due to begin today and last until Sunday. [passage omitted]

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Begins Visit

NC250656 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—Takakazu Kuriyama, Japanese deputy foreign minister, arrived in Cairo from Baghdad tonight. He is leading a delegation that will pay a 2-day visit to Egypt.

Upon his arrival, the Japanese official stated that he will attend the annual Egyptian-Japanese meeting at which ways of promoting relations between the two countries will be discussed. He added that he will also meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and will hold talks with Assistant Foreign Minister Wafa' Hijazi. He said that the talks will deal with all political and economic issues.

Planning Minister, EEC Discuss Cooperation

NC241452 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, discussed Egyptian-EEC economic and financial cooperation during his meeting today with a joint EEC-International Investment Bank delegation currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by the EEC resident representative in Cairo, Mrs Fransin Henrich [name as received].

The joint EEC-International Investment Bank delegation arrived in Cairo 2 days ago. Immediately after its arrival, the delegation held talks with Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation.

The visit falls within the framework of negotiations over the third financial protocol recently signed between Egypt and the EEC. The talks between the two parties focus on a list of projects which will be financed under the protocol.

Argentine Trade Minister Arrives 24 Nov

NC241510 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—Argentine Foreign Trade and Industry Secretary Ciminari arrived in Cairo from Abu Dhabi this afternoon for a visit of several days.

During his stay in Cairo, the Argentine minister will hold talks with Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, governor of Cairo. The talks will deal with bilateral relations in the economic and commercial fields and their promotion.

Duwaydar Meets With Kuwaiti Health Minister

NC241656 Cairo MENA in English 1630 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, Nov 24 (MENA)—Minister of Health Dr Raghib Duwaydar said today that the Gulf Development Fund will extend a 10 million Kuwaiti dinars loan to Egypt as a contribution towards the enhancement of pharmaceutical industries.

Following a meeting with Kuwaiti Health Minister 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi currently visiting Egypt, the minister said that talks between Egyptian and Kuwaiti officials dealt with various health-related aspects of cooperation.

Speaker Meets Zaire, Djibouti Envoys

NC241408 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub met today with the new Zairian Ambassador in Cairo Beba Malobia [name as received]. During the meeting, they discussed ways of promoting bilateral relations in all areas.

During his meeting with Djibouti's new ambassador to Cairo, Adn Shaykh Hassan, Dr al-Mahjub also discussed further improving bilateral relations.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Chad, Middle East

PM231109 Madrid YA in Spanish 15 Nov 87 p 8-9

[Interview with leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by Hisham Kurdi; date and place not given]

[Text] Question: In the speech which you delivered on the 18th anniversary of your accession to power, you expressed your desire to see the war in Chad ended. Has this war now reached its end or is there still a bone of contention which prevents peace from being achieved?

Answer: In fact there is no such contention between Libya and Chad, although there is an attack by imperialist forces directed simultaneously against both states. The conflict began with the establishment of the Chad Liberation Front; as in Angola or in Algeria, this was a movement in which Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei took part. The Liberation Front has always had Libya's support. Habre has benefited from it, as has Oueddei; later the Front split into two tendencies. Habre chose the imperialists' side and entered into open conflict with Oueddei and the Front. These are Chad's internal problems. Habre found himself in power again and set up the Government of National Unity.

The first real clashes between the countries were in Aozou, but it was the Americans and the French, and not Hissein Habre, who declared that the Aozou Strip belongs to Chad.

The Zionist and Egyptian forces have sought to aggravate the conflict. The two of us can reach an agreement on the Aozou problem. The area is composed of peoples who are in contact with each other on both sides of the border. The populations on the two sides overlap so much that a Libyan can pass for a Chadian and vice versa. In any event, Aozou does not concern Habre. It would primarily concern Oueddei. There has been this minor setback in Aozou, and I hope that it will not be repeated.

Question: Who are your enemies in Chad—the people, the government, or the foreign forces present in that country?

Answer: The imperialist forces. It should be noted that without the French and the Americans the Chadian regime would founder, because it does not have a real government. The French and the Americans are the masters. That is why Habre does not want those forces to withdraw.

Question: Did Hissein's changeover and his alliance with France surprise you, or were you expecting it?

Answer: It is something normal for the Chadian No 1. We know that his country is a patchwork of ethnic groups, religions, and tribes and that Habre refuses to satisfy them. Hence, there is a need for an external force in order to govern his country. Habre represents only his tribe, his clan. He stands alone against all the other Chadian tribes. The country is in a ferment, because no minority accepts being governed by another. As long as Habre is the representative of a single group, he will be unable to govern Chad without external assistance or support.

U.S. Missiles [subhead]

Question: How does the U.S. intervention in Chad manifest itself? The United States has denied supplying Stinger missiles to the Chadians. Do you fear another attack, such as your country suffered in April 1986?

Answer: Of course, as long as I am alive and imperialism exists, I expect a second attack. Reagan is a madman who attempts, through his cowboy actions and methods, to disguise his inability to govern his country. We are constantly anticipating attacks—it does not matter when, since we are determined to secure our territory and to defend our borders. We are struggling against the setting up of foreign bases; we are struggling for peace in the world. This idea is at variance with imperialist policy. They are voracious and, since we stand by our principles, an attack by them is always possible.

Their aircraft unload weapons and Stinger missiles daily. We seized large amounts in the capture of Aozou. Their weapons are now on our territory, in their crates. There are thousands of French troops on our borders, and they have set up a missile base. In Zaire they have also sited many missiles targeted against us. There are thousands of Zairean troops—over 10,000—before our borders. There are dozens of Americans, assigned as military experts. We have reliable information reaching us from inside Chad; the Chadian population and troops are increasingly unable to bear the presence of foreign troops, which are behaving like masters of the country.

Question: You criticize France for its attitude toward Libya. What is your opinion of French policy in Africa, and how do you view the future of relations with France?

Answer: We were the first, the day after the Libyan revolution, to do everything necessary to establish relations of friendship with France. It is Libya which has

served as an intermediary between France and the Arab countries on some occasions, but Franco-Libyan relations have constantly deteriorated until they reached a rift. France is the only country today which continues to maintain a colonial policy in Africa, and now a military presence by land, sea, and air. I hope that the earth opens up under the feet of the French and swallows them up. I trust that there will be uprisings against their military presence in the African countries. That colonialism has reached its climax by becoming something direct which even manipulates governments, which imposes the presidents whom France wants in Central Africa and in Chad.

Question: Can the OAU help to settle the conflict in Chad and the other problems which could arise in Africa in the future?

Answer: The OAU's role is to resolve inter-African problems. It is time to achieve Chadian national unity, leading to a real national reconciliation. The problem of the borders is a detail which we could resolve within the framework of that organization.

Revolutionary Brigade [subhead]

Question: What is your stance on Zaire?

Answer: We consider ourselves at war with Zaire. That country attacked us in Aozou and has just sited a number of missile launchers along the border. We are defending ourselves because we are being attacked.

Question: What do you have to say about the restoration of the Arab countries' diplomatic relations with Israel?

Answer: Egypt is chiefly responsible for this. By restoring diplomatic relations with Israel it has only encouraged the Arab countries to do likewise. Not a single day passes without the Egyptian leaders' attempting day and night to persuade Arab countries to recognize the Zionist enemy.

Question: The entire world has condemned the setting up of an Arab revolutionary brigade composed of members of the Progressive Socialist Party, the Communist Party, and Palestinian fighters, and especially its arrival in Tripoli a few days ago. Those men have been described as mercenaries in your employ. Have you anything to say in reply to these accusations?

Answer: In fact, any Arab on Libya's borders can be regarded as a defender of our borders against foreign imperialism. Any revolutionary brigade in Libya loses its own identity to merge with us into a single fight against the imperialist-Zionist axis threatening us. Any axis of forces which wishes to join forces with us in order to combat the Egyptian-imperialist-reactionary-Zionist axis is welcome.

Question: Who are the enemies of those revolutionary forces?

Answer: The Israelis, the Egyptian regime, Zaire, the French, and the Americans. They are uniting their armed forces in order to attack us, in order to combat our revolution. That brigade's arrival is a historic event. This means that the revolutionary Arab forces are uniting in the same struggle. If Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, or Palestine were attacked tomorrow, we would fight together for the same cause. It is the first time that the borders laid down by colonialism have been transcended and that we have fought shoulder to shoulder. It is quite an event, because they do not come under an army with its hierarchies, which obeys a government's orders. These forces are a spontaneous manifestation by volunteer fighters who wish to fight on our side.

Vile Action [subhead]

Question: You describe the Gulf war as a "futile war." How do you believe the conflict will evolve?

Answer: We are attempting to persuade the Iranians to end the conflict, because it is a futile war. The fighting has reached a state of pure revenge. To bomb schools is a vile and depraved action. This war is devoid of aims and is only a pretext for the Americans to strengthen their presence in the region.

Question: In your opinion, what would be the USSR's reaction if Libya were attacked?

Answer: In my opinion, the USSR would not stand idly by.

Question: Has the fall in the price of oil had repercussions on your country's economy?

Answer: Yes, as on all the oil-producing countries in the world.

Question: Why did you declare the Amman summit futile?

Answer: Bourguiba, the recently overthrown president of Tunisia, used to say about Arab summits: "They are a sum of zeros." In fact, they are a U.S. comedy. It is the Americans who give the orders, and the Arab leaders are the "zeros." Moreover, the choice of Amman on this occasion is bad, indeed unfortunate. Amman is a "dirty" city, recognized by the Zionist enemies. King Husayn is a traitor who has often met with the Zionists.

Al-Qadhdhafi Denounces Arab Ties to Egypt

LD222111 Tripoli JANA in English 1818 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 22, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The leader of the revolution has vigorously denounced the Arab regimes that have hurried immediately following [the] Amman summit to recognize the Egyptian regime and resume their diplomatic relations with it.

In his speech delivered today before the General People's Congress, the leader of the revolution says that if he were a president or a king or having the power of making a decision in Libya he would expel forthwith the embassies of those Arab countries that have resumed their relations with the traitorous regime in Egypt, but, he adds power is in the hands of the people's congresses. This matter, he points out, is left for these congresses to discuss it.

Discussions at General People's Congress Noted

LD230927 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpt] The General People's Congress concluded its proceedings yesterday evening. Details are noted in the following dispatch:

The General People's Congress concluded its proceedings Saturday evening at the People's Hall in Tripoli in the Great Jamahiriyah after drafting the items of the agenda for the third session of the Basic People's Congresses. The congress also may draft the national service law, which was discussed by the Basic People's Congresses during their emergency session in 1987.

In a democratic atmosphere characterised by concern and responsibility, the items to be placed on the agenda of the third session of the Basic People's Congresses were approved. They will be discussed by the congresses—the holders of authority, decision, and sovereignty—which will make the right decisions about them. Among the draft laws approved were: A draft law to organize tourism, a draft law concerning the people's committees, a draft law regarding the public debt, a draft law related to the creation of the bodies of investigation (?rooms), a draft law related to the maritime regions, a draft law concerning the production tax, and a draft law for the creation of a body for foreign (?investments).

As for the foreign policy items approved by the congress for submission to the people's congresses so that they may make the appropriate people's decisions, there will be the visit of the brother leader of the revolution to Algeria, endeavors to set up an Arab common market, endeavors to instigate the popular revolution in the Arab homeland, discussion of the Arab Union project with the brotherly countries, a reassessment of the Jamahiriyah's stand toward countries according to their stands concerning (?the aggression against) the Great Jamahiriyah, a discussion of the military massing in the Arab Gulf, and an endeavor for the Arab nation to possess the nuclear weapon. [passage omitted]

U.S. Obstructionism at UN Protested

LD250830 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0705 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] New York, 25 Nov (JANA)—The Great Jamahiriyah yesterday asked officially for implementation of the UN Headquarters agreement by international arbitration in order to end the discriminatory treatment received by the Great Jamahiriyah's mission to the United Nations in America compared with all other missions.

The Libyan Arab delegation affirmed before the Sixth Committee that the U.S. Administration obstructs the Great Jamahiriyah's mission in New York. This has hindered its effective contributions at UN meetings and committees and is considered to be a violation of the headquarters agreement signed between the United Nations and the United States.

The Libyan Arab delegation called on the United Nations to put an end to this unjustifiable behavior, for the necessary services and facilities to be offered to the Jamahiriyah's mission, and for the restrictions imposed by the United States on the members of the mission to be lifted.

The Libyan Arab delegation said that the Jamahiriyah's permanent representative at the United Nations was subjected to harassment and many difficulties. This has prevented him from carrying out his duties in Canada as the Jamahiriyah's nonresident representative there.

The Libyan Arab delegation pointed out the obstacles created by the United States for the Jamahiriyah's mission, including specifying the distance that they are allowed to travel and not allowing the mission to use the Jamahiriyah's house. The delegation explained that all the efforts of the UN secretary general and the legal counselor have failed to find the necessary solution. This confirms the U.S. Administration's evil intention to hinder the work of the Great Jamahiriyah's mission.

In his speech, the Jamahiriyah's delegate stressed the need for a committee from the host country to examine these issues and many others, as well as the obstacles created by the U.S. Administration to hinder the work of the Great Jamahiriyah's mission.

At the end of his speech, he stressed the feelings of concern over current talks on the introduction of amendments to the host country's laws intended to negatively affect the PLO's position and its relations with the

United Nations. He said that this amendment, if introduced, would constitute a dangerous precedent that is completely in contradiction with the host country's commitments under the agreement with the United States on the UN headquarters.

Mauritania

Moroccan Envoy Delivers Message To Taya

AB242116 Paris AFP in French 1517 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 24 Nov (AFP)—A Moroccan envoy today delivered a message from King Hassan II to Mauritanian leader Maaouiya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, it was learned from an official source in Nouakchott. The Moroccan envoy, Moulay Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state to the minister of foreign affairs, simply stated that the message concerned "excellent bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest."

The visit of the Moroccan minister, observers pointed out, coincides with the arrival in Western Sahara of a UN technical mission charged with investigating conditions for the organization of a possible referendum. The mission will also visit Nouakchott and Algiers.

Makes Statement, Departs

LD242215 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Moulay Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state at the Moroccan Foreign Ministry and special envoy of the Moroccan king to the head of state, left Nouakchott this evening after delivering a special message from His Majesty King Hassan II to His Excellency Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state. [passage omitted]

The Moroccan envoy was received earlier today by the head of state. After this audience, he made the following statement:

[Begin Cherkaoui recording] His Majesty asked me to deliver a message to his excellency the president. This message concerns the fruitful cooperation between the two states and peoples and (?developments) and matters of common interest. Indeed, I found a certain desire (?with the president) for the consolidation of this cooperation in all fields [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Sudan

Battle With Ethiopia Reportedly 'Imminent'

JN241121 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Dubayy, 24 Nov (WAKH)—Press reports from Dubayy, the UAE, have said that a large-scale battle between Ethiopia and Sudan is imminent. Isma'il Ya'qub, deputy governor of the Sudanese Eastern region, affirmed that large military Ethiopian concentrations are stationed on the region's borders.

The newspaper Dubayy *Al-Bayan* today quoted exclusive reports on Sudan as stating that Ethiopian aircraft are carrying out intensive activities in the city of Ausosa [name as received] from which the Garang forces moved to occupy the Sudanese city of Kurmuk a few days ago.

The newspaper also quoted Deputy State Council Chairman Idris al-Banna as reiterating that his country has decided to follow a tit for tat approach in its dealing with Ethiopia in response to the approach used by Ethiopia in its dealings with Sudan during the Garang forces' occupation of Kurmuk, which means that military assistance will be provided to the revolutionary parties hostile to the Ethiopian regime.

The newspaper said that the Sudanese leadership had referred to the completion of its preparations for launching a counterattack to recapture the city. The Sudanese information minister asked the newspapers to nominate their war correspondents who will cover the military campaign, provided they are asked not to publish anything about the military preparations and other secrets which are divulged to them by the leadership. The newspapers were also asked not to publish any information that they receive unless issued by official agencies.

Measures Taken To Activate Mobilization

JN241525 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1418 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Nov (SUNA)—The State Council has decided to activate the measures for general mobilization and to set up civil defense units and a national fund for the support of the Armed Forces under the auspices of the State Council. In a lengthy meeting in Khartoum today—attended by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, leader of the Ummah Party, and Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party—the State Council referred to the need to make every arrangement and provide guarantees for the effective implementation of the decisions.

The State Council made these decisions following a detailed discussion of ways to support and strengthen the home front to confront threats and challenges to national security. The State Council members decided to begin the National Fund for the Support of the Armed Forces by contributing a month's salary.

The State Council also decided to hold intensive meetings with all parties, social organizations, and trade unions to launch a wide-scale popular campaign for general mobilization.

The State Council emphasized the need to harness all popular and official resources and capabilities to retrieve Kurmuk and regain the national sovereignty that was

violated with foreign backing. Kurmuk was recently the target of artillery and rocket bombardment by Ethiopia when the small garrison in the city was forced to evacuate it.

Cabinet Views 'Threats' to National Security
JN231110 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1026 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Nov (SUNA)—In its session yesterday under Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Council of Ministers reviewed the general situation in the country, especially following the developments, threats, and challenges facing national security and sovereignty.

This was announced by Al-Tum Muhammad al-Tum, minister of culture and information and the government's official spokesman. He said the Council had discussed the political, security, and general domestic issues preoccupying public opinion. He said the Council also had discussed the moves and contacts adopted on all axes to upgrade the state's capabilities.

State Council To Review 'Recent Developments'
JN241407 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 24 (SUNA)—The State Council will meet today with both the patron of the Democratic Unionist Party, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, and Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi who is also the chairman of the Al-'Ummah Party, some local press published here today reported.

The meeting will review the recent developments concerning the security situation in the country and the steps adopted by the government and the Armed Forces to recapture the border town of Kurmuk overrun by the rebels of Garang recently.

On the other hand Al-Mirghani and Al-Mahdi held a meeting yesterday during which they discussed the country's current situation and means of supporting the people's Armed Forces.

Al-Mirghani said following the meeting that a joint decision will be issued shortly as regards the Egyptian Sudanese joint defence agreement, indicating that they agreed to study this agreement constitutionally politically and legally in order to overcome differences between the two parties concerning this agreement.

DUP Head on Kurmuk Attack, Support for Army
JN241452 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Nov (SUNA)—Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], said the current aggression against Sudan will be a touchstone for our foreign relations: Our attitude toward others will be determined in light of the stand they take on the aggression committed against us in Kurmuk, south of the Blue Nile. He also spoke about the present situation, efforts to achieve peace, and the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces.

In an interview published today in the independent daily *Al-Ayyam*, Al-Mirghani says the challenge the country is now facing is to achieve a balance between safeguarding Sudan's sovereignty and protecting its territory and the security of its people and between the indefatigable efforts to achieve a just peace and to maintain relations with our neighbors on the basis of mutual respect, good-neighborliness, and noninterference in internal affairs.

Al-Mirghani adds that the DUP places the issue of supporting the Armed Forces above all other national priorities and harnesses all its internal resolutions and international, Arab, and Islamic relations to serve that issue.

Finance Minister Discusses Debt 'Strategy'
JN241751 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, Nov. 24, SUNA—The Council of Ministers has approved a strategy hammered out jointly by the Ministry of Finance, Bank of Sudan and Ministry of Foreign Affairs aiming at tackling the issue of Sudan's debts repayment, said Minister of Finance Dr. Bashir 'Umar here Tuesday.

Speaking to the press the minister pinpointed that the strategy was based on Sudan's circumstances as one of the South Sahara countries that have been affected by the waves of drought and desertification besides Sudan's own circumstances and suffering stemming from problems created by the displaced people and refugees as well as the misuse of debts during the defunct regime of ousted President Numayri.

Also, the minister explained that by the said strategy they will seek the full writing off to those debts of governments and the debts guaranteed by financial institutions, or otherwise writing off debts profits or rescheduling them on a soft long-term way.

As for the Arab countries due debts to the Sudan, the minister of finance emphasized that a political move will be carried out with the view to obtaining the writing off to these debts so that Sudan's negotiating stance could be reinforced.

Concerning the debts due by the socialist countries, the minister said the strategy stipulated a parallel rescheduling to that of Paris Club and a reduction from 50 per cent to 25 per cent on repayments to meet the debts when

dealing commercially with these countries. Regarding debts due by the other countries such as India and China, the minister said the strategy stated a soft long-term rescheduling.

The strategy, further, stipulated amelioration of the offer presented by the commercial banks through the selling of these debts against 20 per cent or less of its value, the minister said. The strategy also proposed the rescheduling of the new package to be agreed upon and the annually laying at the Bank of Sudan of sums to meet the repayment for those banks which present the best offers to the Sudan.

The minister, further, said that the Cabinet had reviewed origin of Sudan's debts and some of its expenditure and the misuse that accompanied it during the toppled regime. The Cabinet stressed Sudan's right of legitimate revision to these debts and confined to the attorney general to carry out this step before starting repaying of the debts.

Peace Committee Discusses Supply, Food Crises

JN241946 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum Nov 24 (SUNA)—The Islamic Christian Peace Committee held a meeting here today—Tuesday—headed by the head of State Council deputy, Idris al-Banna, in which they discussed the tour of the African parties to the East African countries. The committee further discussed supply situation in Wau and declared Wau area "an area of disasters" which needs urgent relief. A committee was formed to draw up a working plan to contain food crises there.

Tunisia

Court Hears Islamic Tendency Members' Appeals

LD232229 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] The State Security Court, chaired by Hachemi Zemmal, continued to examine the appeals of persons sentenced in absentia on 28 September, in the case of the organization known as the Islamic Tendency Movement. The hearing for Chokri Ben Mohamed Bahria, Krim Harouni, and Oualid Bennani, who were all sentenced to 10 years at hard labor and 10 years of administrative surveillance, took place in the morning session.

The court decided to accept formal appeal requests from those sentenced. They were charged with the crimes of premeditated attacks, altering the regime, inciting inhabitants to attack each other with weapons, inciting murder, procuring links with a foreign state and elements recruited abroad, opposing public force, collecting arms, membership in an illegal association, defamation of the regime and its official bodies, spreading false information to harm public order, and distributing leaflets that incite people to attack each other, to commit murder, and to oppose authority.

President, PLO's 'Arafat Meet for Talks

LD241722 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, met at the Republic Palace in Carthage. Hedi Baccouche, prime minister, and Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative to Tunisia, also attended the talks.

The meeting concerned the Arab and international situation. Both sides agreed to continue talks on issues affecting not only Tunisia and the Palestinian people but also the entire Arab nation. Yasir 'Arafat extended to his excellency the president expressions of friendship, love, and sincere wishes for success. He added that the Tunisian people, together with its sincere, alert and wise leadership, embrace their Palestinian people in these difficult times in the history of the Arab nation.

Mestiri on Al-Qadhdhafi Talks, Normalized Ties

LD242029 Kuwait KUNA in English 1427 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Tunis, Nov 23 (KUNA)—Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri said Monday that his talks with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi last Saturday touched on the normalization of relations between the two countries.

In a statement to the Tunisian weekly newspaper "*Al-Sabah*" Mestiri added that the talks also covered developments in the Arab Maghreb region, the outcome of the emergency Arab summit, held recently in Amman, the Iranian threats against the Arabian Gulf countries and the re-establishment of Arab-Egyptian relations. He said the restorations of full relations between Libya and Tunisia is progressing noting that Tripoli has paid its debts to Tunis.

The minister said that the Tunisian consul is currently in Tripoli following the restoration of consular affairs between the two countries and indicated that the Libyan consul is due here today to assume his duties.

He emphasized that Tunisian Premier Hedi Baccouche will pay a visit to Algeria next week within the framework of continuous consultations and cooperation between the two countries.

He pointed out that Tunis is still consulting with some Arab countries on the re-establishing of relations with Egypt indicating that this issue is not a priority for Tunis at this stage.

Baccouche Discusses Egyptian, Arab Relations

JN242123 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic
22 Nov 87 pp 16, 17, 79

[Interview with Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche by Mariam Rubin in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Rubin] You have engineered Tunisia's relations with Algeria, as well as Maghrebian relations at the level of the entire region. Given this fact, what exactly is the status of the Algerian-Libyan unity project, and what is Tunisia's stand on this plan?

[Baccouche] Undoubtedly, Algeria has intentions and is exerting efforts to expand the Maghreb Fraternity and Cooperation Treaty. This treaty is an open one. The Algerians wish Libya would join it. Our stand is that Tunisian-Libyan relations must first be normalized. Then, if Libya wishes to become a signatory to the agreement, the issue will be subject to discussion. This is possible. [passage ommitted]

[Rubin] There are rumors that Bourguiba suffered a heart attack and was transferred to the military hospital. Is this true?

[Baccouche] No. His doctors are keeping him company and his health has not changed. [passage omitted]

[Rubin] Will changes be carried out within the ruling Destourian Socialist Party?

[Baccouche] The Destourian Socialist Party requires rejuvenation. Purges and reforms are also needed for it to regain its vigor and honesty. Unfortunately, many mercenaries and opportunists have infiltrated its ranks. These steps must be carried out if confidence in the party is to be restored. During the various times that I was responsible for the party, I made several attempts in this direction. However, all these efforts failed. This was because many influential people intervened to block attempts to reform the party. Reforms must be carried out in a democratic manner, one far different from despotism and individualistic behavior.

[Rubin] What will be done to implement the reference of the historic statement to a multiparty system?

[Baccouche] We have decided to make the multiparty system an established fact. Tunisians who no longer wish to join the Destourian Socialist Party are free to form other parties. A technical committee has been formed to draft a bill regulating party work. This measure will be presented to the recognized parties. Once ratified, anyone who abides by it will be able to form a political party.

[Rubin] What is the situation concerning the Islamic Tendency Movement, which is not recognized?

[Baccouche] The Islamists have blessed this change. However, we have not held any contacts with them. I believe that the law on the parties will allow all those who obey this law to form a party. Nevertheless, we in Tunisia do not recognize a party that calls itself Islamic. This is because the Tunisian Constitution states that Arabic is the language of Tunisia, that Islam is its religion, that all Tunisians are Muslims, and that no one can proclaim a Muslim an unbeliever.

[Rubin] How will you deal with the pro-Iranian elements that have been the cause of bloody violence and terrorism?

[Baccouche] Tunisia has recently experienced incidents that are alien to the nature and character of our people. These acts have harmed many citizens. Some of those responsible for this violence have been tried by the State Security Court. However, the remainder will be tried by ordinary courts. President Ben Ali has asked the judiciary to discharge its duty in accordance with justice and the law. Anyone whose loyalty to a foreign power and whose receipt of funds from a foreign state is proven, will be punished according to due process. [passage omitted]

[Rubin] According to the historic statement, President Ben Ali is opposed to the succession mechanism. Will presidential elections be reorganized?

[Baccouche] President Ben Ali is a democrat who opposes a life-long presidency. We will propose amending the Constitution. Ben Ali will be nominated for the presidency in elections that will be held at the appropriate time.

[Rubin] In view of the historic statement of the corrective movement, will new elections to the legislature be held?

[Baccouche] We respect continuity. There is no room for premature elections until the law on political parties is enacted. We must find solutions to ensure the participation of the parties in political institutions and work. This subject will be discussed with officials from the other parties.

[Rubin] In their statement declaring support for the new path, all opposition parties, as well as Tunisian figures residing abroad, have called for a general amnesty and for turning a new leaf. What is the policy of the government toward this appeal?

[Baccouche] We will consider each situation on its merits. Tunisians living abroad who have been indicted by the courts can return to Tunisia and undertake the necessary legal measures. These will enable them to remain temporarily free while their request to rescind their indictment is reconsidered. Those who have been indicted by the courts in the past may request a retrial for their case. All cases will be considered, each one on its

own merits. As for those residing abroad who have not been indicted by the courts, they can return to Tunisia, their country, whenever they wish. They are always welcome.

Western Sahara

Information Ministry Announces 20-Day 'Truce'

LD241915 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] There will be a unilateral truce by the Polisario Front in Western Sahara from 25 November to 15 December 1987. This was announced this evening by the Saharan Information Ministry.

This is an act of goodwill which consists of the cessation of any military action against the Moroccan occupation forces in their current positions, both in Western Sahara and in the southern part of Moroccan territory. The truce is to last 20 days. The SDAR Government decided to declare the truce with the aim of guaranteeing the safety of the UN-OAU joint technical mission during its stay in the occupied and liberated regions in order to facilitate its task.

Activities of UN Fact-Finding Mission Noted

LD241332 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpt] The UN technical commission authorized to gather information and facts on the Sahara is continuing its mission in El Ayoun. The commission is made up of two committees; one is concerned with civilian matters and the other with security and military matters. The commission will be holding a series of meetings with the Moroccan administration in El Ayoun Province which has provided it with various documents and statements it has requested on the economic, social, and administrative structures.

The commission has also been able to make a field study on the degree of tranquility and security in which the residents of El Ayoun are living a normal life. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Former President on 'Refugees,' Aden Regime

JN212103 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic
15 Nov 87 pp 32-33

[Interview with former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad by Sayyid Nassar in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Nassar] Do you think what took place in January 1986 was the result of a power struggle or foreign interference? Who are these foreign parties, why did they do this, and whose interests did they seek to serve?

[Muhammad] There were many reasons for these events in our country. Some of the causes pertain to the desire for power. This was manifested by the madness of Staff Brigadier General 'Ali 'Antar, who often threatened the party leadership and hinted at forcibly taking power. 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il was similarly selfish. We agreed to rehabilitate him in 1985 to strengthen party unity and the cohesion of the internal front. However, he indulged in his dreams of taking power over the bodies of the people. He advocated the policy of kindling fires within the party ranks to promote his desire for control. The causes may also be related to the strategic situation of the country and to other regional and international forces that oppose stability and progress in the PDRY, Yemen, and the entire region. There are additionally the factors of backwardness. [passage omitted]

[Nassar] How and by what route did you seek refuge in Sanaa?

[Muhammad] We are in Sanaa because it is the historical capital of Yemen, the capital of unified, democractic Yemen, and the capital of our homeland— Yemen. We are living among our kinfolk and friends. We do not consider ourselves refugees in Sanaa. As to how we came here, all roads lead to Sanaa. It is the capital of all Yemenis. On this occasion, I would like to express our appreciation for the noble, brotherly stands of Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He opened the gates of Sanaa to receive thousands of citizens from the southern part of the homeland.

[Nassar] How many southern refugees are now in the northern part?

[Muhammad] At least 200,000.

[Nassar] There are reports concerning your intervention in the Chadian conflict on the side of Libya. These reports claim that pilots who came with you from the south are being deployed in exchange for Libyan assistance.

[Muhammad] We know and everyone knows that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is capable of defending its territory. We have fraternal ties with Libya. Our only hope is that difficulties between the Jamahiriyah and Chad will be resolved peacefully. As for the reports of pilots coming from the ranks of our supporters, it is well known that a great number of students left Aden. In many countries, their stipends were halted due to the repressive, terrorist policy pursued by the current Aden rulers. We found ourselves responsible for providing thousands of students with the means to continue their studies. Many fraternal Arab states, including the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, have offered us scholarships to help with this difficulty. Hundreds of our students have joined Libyan colleges and institutes.

[Nassar] Do you expect anything to happen in Aden?

[Muhammad] The situation in Aden cannot be stabilized except through national reconciliation. It will otherwise always remain explosive.

The political crisis is deepening and expanding; the crisis of the Aden rulers is expanding; and the economic and financial situation is collapsing. Living conditions for the people are growing worse, and the political and security situation is completely unstable. Jails are packed with members of our party as well as other people. Due to high prices and a lack of basic commodities, unemployment is now rife for the first time since independence. Beggars fill the streets and hundreds of cadres have left the country. There is no way they can be tempted to return.

[Nassar] Do you have any hope of returning to Aden, even as an ordinary citizen?

[Muhammad] Our return to Aden is not the issue. What is important is the national issue of the return of the people. The national unity of the people has been torn apart. There are tens of thousands of refugees and also tens of thousands in jails and prisons. There is an army of unemployed persons. Hundreds are undergoing summary trials and await predetermined sentences. There is also the issue of national stability and security. We do not care for power as we do for restoring national unity and stability. I am one of the tens of thousands of citizens who have the right to return to Aden. As I stated before, without a democratic dialogue, a political solution, and national reconciliation, the situation in Aden is liable to explode at any time. [passage omitted]

[Nassar] Why did the USSR fail to support you as friends during your crisis? Does this mean that the USSR supports the stronger party—the ruling one?

[Muhammad] Before, during, and after the events of January 1986, our Soviet friends stressed the importance of solving party problems and differences through democratic dialogue and peaceful means. They repeatedly reaffirmed this. Soviet leader Gorbachev also emphasized this during the visit of 'Ali Salim al-Bid to Moscow in February 1986, during the 27th CPSU Congress. When Al-Bid visited the USSR this February, the Soviet

leader and leadership and the Soviet friends stressed the need to achieve national reconciliation. However, the Aden rulers rejected these efforts and advice, just as they have all along refused mediation by many fraternal and friendly states. The latest of these offers was that of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He made it during the visit of 'Ali Salim al-Bid to Sanaa last September. [passage omitted]

[Nassar] What is your assessment of the Aden regime?

[Muhammad] As an Arab observer of Yemeni events once stated, the Aden ruling authorities have placed themselves in a prison cell that bears the words 13 January. They have locked themselves up and thrown the keys into the sea. None of these rulers knows how to leave this cell. They are in an unenviable position and cannot agree on an alternative.

[Nassar] Let us name five people who you believed were your friends, only to discover that they were betraying you. Who are they, and why did they betray you?

[Muhammad] I believe I know who you are referring to when you mentioned my five friends. There are many more than five. However, I can say that I know the circumstances these five people are living under. One of them is Abu Bakr al-'Attas, who supported us before and after the events. He contacted us many times during these events when he was in New Delhi. But when he saw a change in the military situation, he then adopted another stand. However, I believe that deep inside him, he still supports us. There is Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, deputy prime minister and minister of fisheries. I entrusted him with giving a letter to President Hafiz al-Asad during the events. He also conveyed a message to the Soviet leadership since he was one of our men before, during, and after the events. However, personal reasons forced Nu'man to return to Aden and to deal with the ruling clique. I respect and appreciate this man. The third is Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali. He supported us before the events and until the last meeting of the Political Bureau. He additionally backed us during and after the events. However, personal reasons also forced him to return to Aden and to sympathize with the ruling clique. This clique attempted to exploit him as a foreign minister, due to the relations that developed between the two sides. They wanted to use him for some time. However, they recently expelled him from the Political Bureau with the aim of eventually getting rid of him.

The fourth person is Muhammad Haydar Masdus, member of the Central Committee and PDRY ambassador to Bulgaria. He was on our side before and during the events. He always urged us to make a decisive move to overcome any difficulty we faced. However, when the military situation changed, Masdus, like the others, was forced to coexist with the divisionist Aden clique.

The fifth is Politburo member Muhammad al-Siyayli. He formerly headed the State Security Committee in our government. Al-Siyayli stood by us for over 5 years. He is now accused of having been an instrument of the legitimate leadership. There is no need to mention many others who supported us prior to and during the events and whom we are certain still support us.

Industrial Agreement Signed With USSR

EA232145 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] An industrial cooperation agreement was signed this morning at the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply between our country and the USSR. According to the agreement, Soviet experts will be sent to prepare a preliminary study for developing building-materials enterprises and establishing this industry to use locally available resources.

Brother Taha Shaki, acting deputy minister of industry, trade, and supply for industrial affairs, signed the agreement for the Yemeni side. The deputy Soviet trade adviser in Aden signed for the Soviet Union. It should be noted that this agreement is the first phase in establishing a local building-materials industry by the year 2005.

Saudi Arabia

Khamene'i Remarks on Mecca Incident Refuted

LD242303 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2025 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 25 Nov (SPA)—Commenting on what Tehran radio broadcast yesterday quoting the address of President Khamene'i at the opening of the so-called congress of Islamic researchers—in which he attacked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabi in his typical, immoral manner and made demands concerning the security and sanctity of the holy Mecca shrine—SPA's political editor stated the following:

It is not strange that Khamene'i should mount such a frantic attack against the Kingdom and its government. He and the rest of the Tehran rulers have become accustomed to wandering around blindly and talking nonsense. This is a miserable and desperate attempt to justify the repeated, ugly crimes the Khomeyni regime committed in the vicinity of God's holy house, which He created as a secure foundation for mankind.

It is as if this man has not yet realized that the entire world no longer believes even one word propagated by the Iranian media about the Mecca incident—after God exposed their intentions, thwarted their actions, and drove them back in disgrace and defeat. Their shame came in their deeds that harmed God's sanctities, obstructed the way to the holy mosque, and repeatedly sought to arouse sedition and agitation in holy Mecca. They did this by demonstrating, chanting slogans, carrying banners, and posting pictures throughout the streets of Mecca. These actions therefore hindered Muslims

from entering the holy mosque, disturbed religious observances around the old shrine, and killed hundreds of pilgrims and citizens during their march.

Has Khamene'i not yet realized that the Islamic world, its leaders, its institutions, its scholars, its ulema, and its peoples have unanimously agreed to condemn the Tehran rulers? All these have also united in denouncing the terrorist acts of the Iranians and their criminal conduct against the sanctities and rites of Muslims.

In addition, the entire Islamic world has affirmed its full support for the Kingdom for any action it takes to prevent any recurrence of these events. Has Khamene'i not yet heard the resolutions passed by the Third Islamic Conference that concluded in holy Mecca on 15 October 1987? [passage omitted]

After examining the facts, the Third Islamic Conference in Mecca realized that the Iranian regime lay behind the sedition in Mecca during the last pilgrimage, due to its concoction of and call for agitation. The conference condemned the authors of the agitation. It also backed the measures the Kingdom took to secure the safety of pilgrims to the holy house of God and to safeguard them from sedition. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i yesterday stood up and stated: We call for the safety of the holy shrine of Mecca. However, has Khamene'i, after all this, forgotten the present that he and his colleagues among the Tehran rulers offered the sacred land during the 1985 pilgrimage? This gift took the form of 94 suitcases full of explosives. They were intended to frighten secure men and to kill pilgrims and men praying outside the holy house of God. This action intended to export the Khomeyni revolution and to serve its objectives under the slogan of Islam.

Is this the security Khamene'i calls for without any fear or shame? Or, is this the sanctity of the holy shrine of Mecca that he sinfully and in a perfidious manner called for in his speech yesterday?. Was it not for the existence of a firm and efficient security force in the Kingdom, no one would have stood between the demagogues and the holy house of God.

Is it not time for this man and his colleagues among the tyrannical Khomeyni rulers to wake up from their sleep, arrogance, and misguidedness? Is it not time for them to realize the reality of their situation and the waste and trouble their rule has caused?

Many times we have said that our policy and our Islamic education call on us to transcend the level of what the Iranian information media for hours transmits against the Kingdom.

However, while we remain true to our stand, which has caused us to ignore many lies and wrongdoings by the Khomeyni regime, we simply want to remind 'Ali Khamene'i and his colleagues of something: the clear realities they are ignoring and vainly trying to obliterate, both from the minds of men and from history.

Iraqi Oil Minister Al-Rahim Arrives in Riyadh

LD241036 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0749 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Nov (SPA)—His Excellency Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, the Iraqi oil minister, arrived in Riyadh this morning on a visit to the Kingdom.

He was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning; 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Turki [Petroleum Ministry under secretary]; 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Shunaybir, under secretary for administrative and financial affairs; and a number of other officials.

'Aziz Receives PLO's Khalaf, Al-Wazir

JN241529 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1436 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with PLO Executive Committee members Salah Khalaf and Khalil al-Wazir. Talks dealt with developments in the Palestinian cause. The meeting was attended by the deputy head of the RCC Arab Liberation Movements Office and the Baghdad PLO office director.

'Aziz, Japanese Official Discuss Relations

JN242018 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received Takakazu Kuriyama, Japanese deputy foreign minister, who is visiting Iraq as part of the Japanese delegation to the Iraqi-Japanese joint committee meetings. Talks dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and issues of mutual interest.

Kuriyama Leaves Baghdad 24 Nov

JN242025 Bagdhad INA in Arabic 2006 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama left Baghdad for Cairo this evening at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq. The Japanese official held talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and ways to promote them. He also reviewed with them the situation in the region and issues of mutual interest.

Takakazu Kuriyama this evening signed the minutes of the fifth session of the Iraqi-Japanese joint committee for economic, trade, technical, and scientific cooperation. 'Abd al-Muttalib al-'Uraybi, under secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction, signed the minutes for Iraq. The minutes stipulate the continuation of contacts between experts of both countries to follow up the implementation of the minutes of this session.

The Iraqi and Japanese officials expressed satisfaction with the signing of the minutes, which constitute a new framework for bilateral relations of cooperation. The Japanese Foreign Ministry official said he hopes the committee's next session will be held in Japan.

Oil Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia 24 Nov

JN241317 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim left for Saudi Arabia today on an official visit scheduled to last for several days. During the visit, the Iraqi official will hold talks with Saudi officials on enhancing oil cooperation; on the issues to be tackled by the OAPEC Ministerial Council, which will hold its meetings in Kuwait on 28 November; and on the topics to be tackled by the OPEC Ministerial Council, which will hold its meetings in Vienna on 9 December.

He will also acquaint himself with the progress of the second phase of the Iraqi oil pipeline through Saudi territory. The implementation contract of the pipeline was signed on 20 September. It is worth noting that the total capacity of the pipeline will reach 1.65 million barrels per day after the completion of the second phase.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Downed Plane Claim Denied

JN241224 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian allegations of downing an Iraqi plane. A military spokesman told an INA correspondent today that the Iranian regime has made us accustomed to its propagation of such lies every time grave losses are inflicted on its forces. He added that Iraqi aircraft had inflicted thousands of casualties, either killed or wounded, on the Iranians through its intensive raids on their positions inside Iran during the past 23 days, not to mention the losses caused by the weapons of the Iraqi ground forces.

The military spokesman recalled that the Iranians have sustained grave losses and failed to achieve any of their objectives in their attempts. He added that the Iraqi forces are maintaining absolute control over the border areas in Iraq's northeastern corner. He went on to say that all the allegations and figures propagated by Iran are entirely baseless.

Communique No 2,927

JN241736 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Communique No 2,927 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of great Iraq and the principles of its glorious revolution, our victorious Armed Forces continued their confrontation of the Zionist Khomeynites last night and today as follows:

1. Our brave Air Force today resumed its heroic activities against enemy units in the operational sectors. The brave hawks succeeded in destroying many of the scoundrels' concentrations, positions, weaponry, and military hardware in 74 combat missions. After carrying out their duty, our brave hawks returned with their planes safely to base under God's protection and guidance.

2. The helicopter gunships knights carried out 87 combat sorties. During these sorties, they inflicted further losses in life and equipment on our country's enemies. After these missions, they returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our valiant units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy: 10 scoundrels killed and others wounded; 3 vehicles set on fire and destroyed; another vehicle damaged and its occupants either killed or wounded; 1 tank damaged; 3 ammunition dumps detonated; 1 observation post destroyed; and several enemy sources of fire silenced.

4. One enemy scoundrel was killed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. Five enemy scoundrels were killed and six infantry positions, one observation post, one machinegun, and one shovel were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. Two vehicles and one observation post were destroyed and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. One machinegun position and one infantry postiion were destroyed and their occupants killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. Two enemy personnel were killed and one machinegun position and one shovel were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 November 1987

Kurdish Fighters Attack 'Major' Iranian Base
JN242011 Baghdad INA in English 1818 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Paris, Nov 23, INA—A major Iranian Army base to the west of Borakan town was the target of an attack by combatants belonging to the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran on Sep 29 last. A statement issued by the Party here today said the combatants occupied the base after a fierce battle in which 127 Khomeyni Guards were killed and seven more captured.

ILA Mounts 'Intensive Attacks' Against Iran
JN241357 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Paris, Nov 24, INA—Iranian Liberation Army (ILA) captured 447 Iranian Army officers, warrant officers, and privates during a two-day of intensive attacks against Iranian positions, it was reported here today.

Sources of the opposition Iranian movement said that combatants of the ILA had managed in penetrating the defence lines of the Iranian Army positions in north-west Iran, killing 500 troops and capturing 282 others including 25 officers affiliated to the 64 Army Division.

During those operations, the sources added, ILA's combatants seized large quantities of arms, ammunition and military equipment left behind by the Iranian troops in their destroyed positions.

The sources said that ILA's combatants had engaged in a big battle with the Iranian troops in the central and west of Iran and at an area adjacent to "Ain Khosh" [name as received] township. At that battle, the sources added, hundreds of Iranian troops were killed.

Shamir Comments on U.S. Visit, Talks

'Unanimity' in Views

TA241124 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Nov 87 p A3

[Report from the United States by Ran Dagoni and 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth]

[Excerpt] "I am convinced that peace with Jordan will yet be reached in our generation," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in an interview with *Ma'ariv* on the conclusion of his visit to the United States.

"It is not just a matter of faith," the prime minister said. "With the passing of time the Arabs see more and more that it is impossible to defeat Israel by the use of force, and so they must learn to live with it. The political formulas to make this viable must be found and they can only be reached through direct negotiations."

Shamir said he believes there is a chance that he will meet with Jordan's King Husayn, but repeated his denial of *Newsweek*'s claim that he had already met with him in the 'Arava.

In reply to a question on whether the international conference idea is dead, Shamir answered: "In the meantime, let us say that the idea has been postponed for a long time." He said the issue was not raised in his talks in Washington.

Shamir noted that his call to Husayn, made three times during his visit to the United States, was not a public relations exercise, but "a result of our policy...We are prepared to talk peace with the Arabs. We are open to listening and they should be open to hearing us, to being convinced. I am not the first Israeli prime minister to say this. There has not been a prime minister who has not said these things."

Shamir commented that he could not detail all the topics of his talks with President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz. He said that "absolute unanimity" had been achieved on most of the issues in his Washington talks.

The prime minister said that the lion's share of his talks with Reagan and Shultz had been devoted to the Soviet Jewry issue. In reply to a question on whether the Reagan administration should link the human rights problem to the disarmament issue, Shamir answered: "...I would not say that solving the Soviet Jewry issue could be a precondition for an agreement on the reduction of nuclear weapons...But I think the United States will be able to stand firmly by its demand that the Soviet Union open its gates to the Jews." [passage omitted]

Makes Statement on Return

TA241953 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel at Ben-Gurion Airport upon Shamir's arrival from the United States—live]

[Text] [Frankel] Good evening from the VIP lounge at Ben-Gurion Airport. The prime minister's plane landed a few minutes ago. Welcome home, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] Thank you.

[Frankel] You spent 6 days on a most intensive tour of the United States. Perhaps we could hear a few words from you, first of all.

[Shamir] Well, the visit had a predominantly Jewish character this time. I went to the United States to meet with various parts of the Jewish community. The direct reason for my visit was the invitation to participate in the annual national convention of all U.S. Jewish federations in Miami Beach, which was attended by over 3,500 U.S. Jewish leaders. This was a very impressive demonstration of Jewish power. I was deeply impressed by their willingness to mobilize all their resources for the Jewish cause. They are all deeply involved now in organizing a large-scale demonstration scheduled to take place in front of the White House on the eve of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, to display the support of U.S. and world Jewry for the right of Soviet Jews to free immigration to Israel. I addressed the convention and delivered a message from the State of Israel and the Israeli Government.

I left for Washington the next day to hold talks with administration officials. I met the President, Secretary of State Shultz, Defense Secretary Carlucci, and some of their aides. The next 2 days were occupied by more meetings with administration officials. These talks were marked by an extraordinary atmosphere of friendship, mutual trust, and partnership.

[Frankel] Mr Shamir, according to reports accompanying your visit, the peace process seems to be in deep freeze. There has been no movement, and no new ideas are expected. Is this also the impression you are bringing back from the United States?

[Shamir] If you consider the idea of an international conference as conceived and publicized by Brezhnev 12 years ago as new, then I must say that there have been some newer ideas. Naturally, in our talks we discussed the need to pursue our efforts for peace, guided by the principle of direct negotiations which is accepted by both the U.S. Government and us. We discussed the means to promote such negotiations in various forums. We will discuss this subject in detail during my official visit to Washington at the beginning of next year.

[Frankel] While you were in the United States, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres toured Europe preaching for an international conference. Are we to live with a divided government that talks with two voices for another year, until the elections?

[Shamir] I have not heard any details of the foreign minister's visit to Europe. In any event, I think that the international arena in which world and Middle East developments are determined is Washington.

[Frankel] Thank you.

Further on Press Briefing

TA250823 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Nov 87 p 1

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir, on his return from the U.S. yesterday, said that there is a good chance that American aid to Israel will not be reduced.

Speaking at a press conference at Ben-Gurion Airport, the prime minister said that on the basis of his talks with Reagan administration leaders, he believes that "there is a good chance that aid to Israel will not be cut, despite the American budget crisis." This depends ultimately on Congress, he noted, but the administration is not seeking a cut in aid to Israel. [passage omitted]

Shamir said that allegations about Israeli arms sales to Iran did not come up in his talks. He said he had expressed Israel's "full support" for America's efforts to assure freedom of passage for ships in the Persian Gulf.

Shamir said that the problem of Mubarak 'Awwad—the American Palestinian who runs a passive resistance centre in the West Bank and whom Israel wants to deport—came up in his talks in the U.S. The Americans have been pressing Israel not to deport the man.

Shamir said that he was invited for an official visit to the U.S. in January-February 1988.

AL-SHA'B Editorial on Visit

TA241910 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Nov 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Shamir-Reagan, Reconciliation and Agreement"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Washington and the statements he made about the way to achieve peace in the region represent one in a series of links of trickery, deceit, and procrastination that Shamir is accustomed to practicing whenever he is besieged by the international consensus stressing the need to convene an international conference for peace in the region.

The U.S. collusion with the Israeli position reiterated by Shamir in Washington yesterday, which views "direct negotiations" as the best and only means for achieving peace in the region, once again reveals U.S. intentions toward Arab causes in general and the Palestinian cause in particular. These intentions have been made public by the U.S. Administration through its refusal to listen to the voice of international consensus calling for the convocation of an international peace conference, as well as through its insistence on supporting the Israeli positions that continue to foil the available opportunities for peace.

The current U.S.-Israeli talks in Washington, including "reconciliation and agreement" on the issue of "direct negotiations," raising the level of U.S. aid to Israel, blessing U.S. moves in the Gulf, and agreement on placing the immigration of Soviet Jews on the agenda of the U.S.-Soviet summit scheduled for 7 December, are a clear response to the Arab "reconciliation and agreement" resolutions. These resolutions sufficed with expressions of appeal, condemnation, and denunciation, as well as with a timid call for the convocation of an international peace conference, and were not coupled with any practical tool that would force the U.S. Administration to stop providing cover for Israeli positions.

Shamir's and Reagan's "reconciliation and agreement" on all issues undoubtedly exposes the Arab "reconciliation and agreement" to a practical test in its ability to impose a unified Arab will over the dissenting parties on the issue of convening an international peace conference. This is particularly so when this will enjoys the consensus of the international community, which is convinced that peace cannot be achieved except through the international formula specifying the framework and the procedure for establishing a just and lasting peace in the region.

Shevardnadze Rejects Talks Under Joint Aegis

TA250851 tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Nov 87 pp A1, 2

[Report from Geneva by Sari Robert]

[Excerpt] "We are in favor of an international conference with the participation of all the members of the UN Security Council and the Arab countries. We consider this the only possibility, and we continue to support this position. It is also acceptable to the UN Security Council members and to the Arab countries. I do not dismiss the possibility that there may also be direct talks within the framework of the international conference." This was said in Geneva last night by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in reply to a question by the *Ma'ariv* correspondent.

Shevardnadze added: "I am aware of the fact that your foreign minister, Shim'on Peres, also supports an international conference in this format. As to whether he is capable of reaching an agreement with his prime minister on this, that is something I do not know," the minister concluded with a broad smile and a shrug. In his reply, he rejected the proposal of direct talks between

Israel and the Arab countries under the aegis of the United States and the Soviet Union as a substitute for the international conference. [passage omitted]

Soviets 'Turn Down' Syrian Request on Golan

TA241638 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] An Israeli military magazine said yesterday that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had asked the Soviets for permission to launch military operations against Israel a few months ago and also last month, but that his request had been turned down.

The privately owned magazine *Sword* said it had learned that in September and October, President al-Asad had attempted to mount military operations to regain the Golan Heights, preferably before the start of winter. Israel captured the area during the Arab-Israeli war of 1967.

This was reported in an article by Dany Goff [name as published], the magazine's editor, in which he said that he had acquired this information from Israeli sources whom he refused to identify. An IDF spokeswoman refused to comment on the contents of the article.

Goff, who receives data from Israeli officials about military topics, frequently reveals information that is not published elsewhere. Goff said he was told that President al-Asad's request was conveyed to the Soviets 2 months ago.

Goff said that Moscow had rejected President al-Asad's request because the outbreak of military operations in the Middle East does not serve Soviet interests. The Syrian president has altered his policy since then.

Health Ministry Director General on PRC Visit

TA240821 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Health Ministry Director General Yoram Lass is presently on a week's visit to China, the Health Ministry revealed yesterday. The invitation was extended to Lass when he was still deputy rector of Tel Aviv University on the basis of his world reputation as an expert physiologist, the ministry declared.

Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino said that Lass is the highest-ranking Israeli Government official to visit China publicly.

PRC Protests Visit Portrayal

TA251040 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 Nov 87 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Following a firm demand from China, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has hastened to express reservations about the visit to Beijing by Health Ministry Director General Prof Yoram Lass.

It has been learned that Chinese diplomats in Europe have complained to their counterparts in Israel that the Israeli and international media have presented the visit as a political move and a diplomatic achievement. In the wake of this, and to satisfy China, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ehud Gol announced that Yoram Lass is visiting China in his capacity as a scientist, a professor, and a member of the staff of Tel Aviv University, adding that the visit has no connection with his current post as director general of the Health Ministry.

The spokesman said that Prof Lass' invitation to visit China for a scientific symposium was issued "even before he was appointed to his government post." In order for the Israeli explanation to also reach the ears of the PRC Administration, the Foreign Ministry spokesman convened a briefing for foreign correspondents at which he reported this explanation to them.

Commentary Analyzes Amman Summit Results

TA201354 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT Supplement) in Hebrew 20 Nov 87 p 5

[Commentary by Yeshay'ahu Ben-Porat: "What Will Israel Get From the Summit Conference"]

[Text] It is very easy to answer the question of whether the Arab summit in Amman produced good results for Husayn and Mubarak. It is more difficult to give an unequivocal answer to the unavoidable question, in its unavoidable formulation, of whether the summit was also good for the Jews.

Husayn came out of it with a profit. The little king has suddenly become big. Post summit Jordan, according to its television newscasts, is radiating a feeling of euphoria. The king succeeded in his mission. Despite all the difficulties piled up in his path, he succeeded in convening the first pan- Arab conference after a break of many years. He restored pan-Arab solidarity to what it was, rehabilitating the unity of the moderate countries. And he demonstrated leadership while simultaneously allowing himself some room to maneuver, first a[illegible] foremost on the question of the peace process.

Although to his disappointment he was not invited to Amman and his country was not restored to the bosom of the Arab League, Mubarak won an enormous victory that Shim'on Peres was kind enough to describe as follows: "It is not Egypt that has returned to the Arab world, but the Arab world that has returned to Egypt." The conference, by permitting the renewal of relations with Cairo, provided a sort of general Arab legitimization of the peace between Egypt and Israel. The inter-Arab competition over who would be the first to fly their flag in Cairo speaks for itself. Egypt after the summit has been recognized as a central factor in the Arab world, despite the fact that the Israeli flag also flutters in Cairo.

If Husayn has grown and Mubarak has gained a victory; if Hafiz al-Asad has been weakened by the very strengthening of the moderate camp; and if 'Arafat got out of the summit by the skin of his teeth, going on a rampage through its corridors when he discovered that the only clause that had pleased him—PLO representation in an international conference—had been deleted from the version of the resolution that was distributed to the world, then on the face of things the required conclusion is that the summit was also good for Israel.

But this is a hasty conclusion and it is worth thinking twice before spreading it, as in their lack of caution senior political elements in Jerusalem are indeed doing. Speaking cautiously and realistically, and with an overall view that does not ignore the problem's complications, it would be preferable to say that the summit conference in Amman was also good for Israel if Israel is clever enough to learn a lesson from it and take the political initiatives required by the positive dynamics that were born in Amman. If Israel aims at the opposite direction from that of the new dynamics, in the course of time it may yet turn out that the summit was the precursor of a catastrophe.

"You now have a fantastic opportunity to continue the peace process through integration with the moderate Arab camp that emerged with the upper hand," says a senior U.S. journalist stationed in Jerusalem, who spent the summit days in Amman. While there, it was not by chance that he observed 'Arafat's rampage from behind the scenes. He was the one who informed the PLO chief of the fact that the representation clause had been deleted from the English version.

Without any relation to the impressions of his U.S. colleague, MAPAM's Ya'ir Tzaban expressed the same idea in somewhat more pathetic terms when he spoke out in the Knesset this week: "An Israeli leadership that misses the historic occasion of Egypt's return to the Arab world will face the judgment of history."

What this means—and both the above speakers were eluding to this—is that the summit can serve as an opening for Israel to a new policy based on identification with a bloc of moderate Arab countries led by the Cairo-Amman-Riyadh axis. What these countries share at present is fear of the spread of Islamic fundamentalism a la Khomeyni, from the Hizballah in southern Lebanon via the fanatics in Cairo, to Tunisia, where Bourguiba's decision to execute all the leaders of the fanatics brought his dismissal near.

"The Gulf war is currently worrying all the moderate Arab countries and is also endangering Israel," Mustafa Khalil, the former Egyptian prime minister, hurried to declare on descending from the plane that had brought him from Cairo. His visit here, by the way, was only made possible by his country's victory in Amman.

Indeed, the Gulf war took priority in the summit deliberations. The Israeli-Arab dispute, which was not struck from the agenda, was diminished in importance and only marginally discussed. And how was it discussed? As part of a view whose tone is being set by Husayn and Mubarak. This view states: Seek a political solution to the dispute along the lines taken by Egypt, which is no longer boycotted and whose "sin" has been forgiven.

The way to do this, as is known, is an international conference. From this viewpoint the Husayn-Mubarak-Peres axis was strengthened in Amman, with the resolutions no longer making any mention of a Palestinian state or self-determination, or even of independent representation for the PLO. It is agreed, by implication, that the conference will be provided only with the authority to serve as an umbrella under which all the parties can meet, supposedly leading to direct negotiations between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The conference would have no authority to impose solutions.

This is where the positive political option for Israel lies concealed. What is needed to take advantage of it is an intellectual revolution in our strategic concept. No more strategies based on taking advantage of the split in the Arab world ("the Arabs are doing our work"). But rather we must attempt to integrate with the moderate Arab camp. We should use its evolving unity to hitch a ride as it were, on the train that has set out, at least for the time being, in the right direction. Perhaps its next stop will be a chain of peace agreements with Israel.

Says Mustafa Khalil: "At a time when Egypt is trying to get Arab countries moving toward peace, Israel is continuing to help their enemies." That is, the help—to be cautious, let us say the indirect help—that Israel is giving Iran. George Shultz, after all, also pleaded with President Herzog for us to stop this blunder. This week in Washington, Yitzhaq Shamir will also hear a similar song, perhaps in higher tones, from Reagan and the new secretary of defense. After all, every missile and shell that is sold to Iran, or arrives there through anonymous agents and dealers, is now a real threat to U.S. soldiers, 20,000 of whom are sailing in the Gulf.

We find then that we are being begged to change direction from both sides. The moderate Arab camp is, on the face of it, giving us an opening for peace. They are demanding that we abandon the hope that today's aid to Khomeyni will guarantee us Iran's friendship tomorrow. The United States has already paid a high price for its help to that same Khomeyni and is now aligned with Iraq.

Both sides are hinting that if we send an encouraging signal to Iraq, Baghdad will respond, and in the end it will integrate into the moderate camp's process. Some people already boast of knowing—although there is no confirmation of this—that for a long time Baghdad has been signalling its willingness to examine its policy toward Israel.

It is no secret that there is already a pro-Iraqi "lobby" in Jerusalem. It is headed by Weizman, Shahal, and Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir, the father of the strategy of relying on the moderate Arab camps unity. Yitzhaq Rabin went to a great deal of trouble to amend the mistaken impression made by his remarks several weeks ago about the years-long friendship with Iran. But he has not yet expressed a change of direction in Iraq's benefit. Shim'on Peres, one of the fathers of our "Irangate," is wavering. But it is inevitable that as part of the Husayn-Mubarak axis he will not delay in looking toward Baghdad. And Yitzhaq Shamir? As is his way, he does not shoot from the hip, nor does he hurry, and he has not yet brought the matter to the Cabinet for discussion. Perhaps he will be forced to do so after his return from the United States.

What is needed after the summit, and what we have so lacked in recent years, is a national leadership with political courage. The courage to flout conventions, examine ourselves in the light of the radical changes taking place in the world, particularly in Moscow and the Arab camp, and choose the option of furthering peace without damaging the country's security while preserving its Jewish character.

There is also another option. It brings us back to the relevant question posed at the beginning of these lines. This other option proceeds from the dynamics of the unification of the Arab world that was born in Amman. Today, and for as long as is needed, this unity is being turned against Iran. Tomorrow, if and when the Gulf war is over, the continuation of the political freeze in our sector will act as a spur for the actualization of the other option: an Arab world united against Israel. The superficially moderate countries will not then be deterred from a renewed attempt to actualize the rejectionist front's dream and destroy Israel.

Was the summit good for the Jews? The answer, as usual, is in our hands.

Over 200 'Terrorists' Killed in Lebanon in 1987

TA241810 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1645 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Over 200 terrorists have been killed since the beginning of the year in IDF operations in the southern Lebanon security zone, Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, said today. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that Maj Gen Peled went on to say that in the distant future, too, the IDF would have to go on protecting the northern settlements with the help of the security zone.

Khan Yunus Communist Leader Under Detention

TA241147 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1130 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] A 6-month administrative detention was issued today against the head of the Communist Party in the Khan Yunus area. The order was signed by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command. (Muhammad Hamato Barabah), aged 30, is suspected of circulating leaflets, incitement, and participating in hostile terrorist activity. This report was filed by our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv.

Curfew Imposed on Balatah Camp After Riots

TA241658 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1330 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] A curfew was imposed on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus after several incidents of rioting by youths who hurled stones and burned tires. Our correspondent Zohar Melamed reports that IDF forces dispersed the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Al-Masri Interviewed on Summit Results

JN240816 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Nov 87 p 1

[By Randa Habib, *Agence France Presse*]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn will visit Syria and Iraq this week in a mission aimed at securing direct contacts between the leaders of the two countries and pave the way for normalisation of ties between Damascus and Baghdad, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said Monday.

Mr. al-Masri said the King's visit would "pave the way for the beginning of the normalisation of ties between the two countries and there are various indicators that the normalisation process will commence soon and will lead to fruitful understanding between Damascus and Baghdad."

Mr. al-Masri, in an exclusive interview with AFP, said meetings between Syrian and Iraqi officials would follow the beginning phase of the normalisation process and these meetings would be "bilateral, and not trilateral with the participation of Jordan" as some reports had suggested.

The foreign minister said there was no possibility of Syria assuming a mediatory role between Iran and Iraq, which have been at war for over seven years. "Syria joined the Arab bloc and agreed to resolutions adopted by the (Nov. 8-11) extraordinary Arab summit (in Amman) which were very clear regarding Iranian threats to the Gulf states and to navigation there," he said. "Iran's actions show that any attempts for mediation will serve no useful purpose."

Mr. al-Masri said Jordan believes that the Gulf war can be ended only through the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 with all measures included in it such as imposing an arms embargo on Iran. Mr. al-Masri revealed that one of the Amman resolutions called on Arab countries to review the economic and trade relations with states which supply arms to Iran.

On Arab ties with Egypt, Mr. al-Masri said the resumption of Arab diplomatic relations with Egypt had opened the way for its eventual return to the Arab League. "Now that the majority of Arab countries have restored ties with Cairo, one can conclude that Egypt's readmission to the Arab League is almost certain," he said.

One of the resolutions adopted by the Amman summit cleared the way for individual Arab states to resume diplomatic ties with Egypt by ruling that it was a "sovereign matter" of individual members of the Arab League. In less than a week after the summit ended nine Arab countries resumed relations with Egypt, severed after Cairo signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

At present 14 of the 20 Arab League member states have diplomatic relations with Egypt and the 21st member, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has indicated it has no objections to restore Arab ties with Cairo.

On Jordan's relations with the PLO, Mr. al-Masri said that the Kingdom's policy was based on three principles: "the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; the U.N. should extend an invitation to the PLO to attend an international conference on the Middle East; and no Arab country can represent the Palestinian people or settle the Palestinian problem."

The foreign minister said that a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue "is a necessity." He said there could be no solution to the Palestinian problem without Jordan and the PLO. "Even though the two sides have not changed their positions, they agree on the necessity of continuing a dialogue to reach a converging point," he said. "Jordan sees this point as the basics contained in the (Feb. 11, 1985) Jordan-PLO agreement."

Al-Rifa'i Receives Message From Al-Mahdi

JN241903 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office at noon today Dr Amin Makki Madani [not further identified], who conveyed to him a message from Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The meeting was attended by Isma'il Fadil Mahdi, member of the Sudanese Constituent Assembly, and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

During the meeting, they reviewed the bilateral brotherly relations and fruitful cooperation between the two fraternal countries, as well as ways to promote and enhance these relations in the service of joint interests.

Al-Rifa'i Discusses Summit at House Session

JN242106 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Excerpts] The House of Representatives has praised the results of the extraordinary Amman summit conference—the summit of reconciliation and accord—and its positive resolutions. These resolutions ended Arab weakness and division and launched a new era of Arab solidarity and cooperation in the face of the challenges and dangers threatening the Arab nation's security. The resolutions also laid the groundwork for joint Arab action and the preservation of the Arab order. The House also stressed its pride in His Majesty King Husayn's leadership, wisdom, and continued efforts to safeguard the Arab order. More details in the report from our correspondent Muhammad al-Tarawinah:

[Begin recording] During its sixth ordinary meeting of the fifth ordinary session held this morning under Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz and in the presence of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the ministers, the House of

Representatives discussed a number of topics on its agenda. At the beginning of the meeting, the House listened to the text of the royal decree extending the term of the House of Representatives for another 2 years as of 17 January 1988.

A number of representatives then delivered speeches praising His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab positions and his continued efforts to unify Arab ranks to confront the dangers facing the Arab world. The representatives also praised the resolutions of the Amman summit, which meet the aspirations of the Arab people in all the Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Speaking in reply to the speeches of the representatives, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i affirmed that the results of the extraordinary Arab summit were positive, constructive, and objective and that these results are known to all Arab and international circles. He added that these resolutions effectively contributed to closing and unifying Arab ranks and the will to confront the challenges facing our Arab nation. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Lebanon's Al-Huss Ends Visit, Leaves 24 Nov

JN241402 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Acting Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left Amman for Beirut this morning after a 3-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Al-Huss met with His Majesty King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan. He also held talks with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i on the results of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman, particularly with regard to issues relating to the situation in fraternal Lebanon. He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, a number of ministers, the Lebanese ambassador in Amman, and several senior officials.

More on Soviet Official's News Conference

JN242044 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Pavel Volkov, Ukranian SSR minister of motor transportation, member of the UkSSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and head of the Soviet friendship delegation, held a news conference in Amman this morning at the end of the delegation's visit to Jordan as part of celebrations during friendship week in Jordan. Our reporter Salim 'Ali Dhiyab has sent us the following report on the details of the news conference:

[Begin recording] Pavel Volkov, minister of motor transportation in the Ukranian SSR and head of the Soviet friendship delegation, has said that relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union are continuing to deepen, develop, and advance. He also said that the Soviet friendship delegation's meeting with His Majesty King Husayn reflected the extent of the strength of these relations when his majesty the king stressed the importance of the Soviet role in resolving regional and international disputes and conflicts.

This came at the news conference given by the head of the Soviet friendship delegation before departing Amman today. The Soviet ambassador and members of the Jordanian-Soviet friendship society also attended the news conference.

The Soviet minister said that King Husayn's scheduled visit to the Soviet Union before the end of this year will create new opportunities to achieve a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He added that the Soviet Union shares King Husayn's view announced during the Amman summit that the continuation of the conflict in the Middle East is dangerous and that the only way to end the conflict is to convene a UN-sponsored international peace conference to be attended by all parties and the five permanent Security Council member states.

Regarding recent reports on the existence of military cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iran, the Soviet minister said the Soviet Government condemns the aggressive policy of the Iranian leadership, which insists on continuing aggression against Iraq and neighboring countries.

He added that recent reports on this issue are unfounded and that from time to time the two sides discuss the articles of the old treaty signed between the Soviet Union and Iran in 1921.

He also said such a discussion does not take place at the expense of the Iraq-Iran war and the region's peoples or to exacerbate conflicts in the region. He added that the Soviet Union insists on the need to end the Iraq-Iran war in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598.

At the end of his statement, the Soviet official said that the friendship week in Jordan has given us a chance to see the progress achieved in Jordan, which takes firm political positions on regional and international problems and conflicts. [end recording]

Birri Views Algiers, Damascus Meetings, Summit

NC231835 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Following an absence of several weeks abroad, during which he visited Algeria, London, Paris, and, finally, Damascus, where he met with Syrian officials, particularly Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, returned to Beirut yesterday evening. During a news conference this afternoon, he referred to some matters related to the current situation. He discussed his visit to Algeria on the occasion of the anniversary of the Algerian revolution. [passage omitted]

Minister Birri also noted that he had held a meeting [in Algiers] with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, during which they discussed the implementation of the Amal Movement's initiative for resolving the camps issue. Birri regarded the implementation of this initiative as a means to regulate Lebanese-Palestinian relations.

After speaking about Mustafa Sa'd's sponsorship of the Sidon meetings to apply the new mechanism, Birri announced that an agreement has been reached among Walid Junblatt, Eng 'Asim Qansuh, and himself on a concept that will lead to ending this sad episode in Lebanese-Palestinian relations. Minister Birri emphasized that Algeria and Damascus are eager to close the camps dossier. [passage omitted]

The minister for south affairs described the Arab summit as a long American movie, asserting that Lebanon was the biggest loser in it. He said that even the aid that had been decided for Lebanon and the south at a previous summit was not approved. Indeed, the recent summit denied it to Lebanon.

On the presidential elections, Minister Birri declared his rejection of any idea or plan leading to presidential elections. He also reaffirmed his rejection of the formation of any new government, emphasizing that the present government will remain as long as the regime [of President Amin al-Jumayyil] continues in office.

Birri, Algerian Envoy Discuss Camps Issue

NC251421 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction, today received Algerian envoy Mohamed al-Tahir. They discussed the situation in the camps. Afterward, Birri said that the purpose of the meeting was to review the issues on which agareement had been reached in Algiers, particularly the camps question. Birri said: I explained to the Algerian envoy that the Amal Movement has fulfilled all its commitments and that what is required now is the implementation of the last phase of the Amal Movement initiative; that is, the withdrawal of Palestinian forces from the area east of Sidon. He added: We have requested the Algerian Government, through its envoy, to intercede with the Palestinian brothers and persuade them to honor their commitments.

Amal Leadership Plans, Hizbollah Ties Revealed

JN251132 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
25 Nov 87 pp 1, 20

[Unattributed "exclusive" report]

[Text] Lebanese Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri has been quoted as saying that he has decided to resign and that the Movement's leadership will be taken over by 'Akif Haydar, Political Bureau member and military commander in southern Lebanon.

This came during a meeting which Birri held with a number of Lebanese leaders in Paris last week. The minutes of the meeting indicated that internal and external pressures, particularly the shortage of funds, have crippled the Amal Movement.

Reports on expected changes in the Movement's leadership have come amid reports confirming that the coming phase will witness cooperation and an alliance with the Hizballah organization which has sufficient funds enabling it to attract large numbers of the Amal Movement's men and to expand its area of activity and influence in Al-Biqa' and southern Lebanon.

Al-Jumayyil's Visit, Activities in FRG

For reportage on President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to the FRG, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 24 November West Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Iran's Mazaheri Opens Goods Exhibit in Beirut

NC231852 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpts] The first exhibition of Iranian products was opened in the Summerland Hotel today in the presence of Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Mazaheri. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Iranian deputy prime minister affirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to make good economic progress despite 8 years of war. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Military Official Killed in Shatila

NC241555 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Sporadic gunfire continues to be heard in and around Shatila camp following intermittent clashes this afternoon. The Amal Movement had accused the Palestinians of hurling grenades at Al-Hayy al-Gharbi.

According to a Palestinian source in Shatila, cited by AFP, a military official from the Palestine Liberation Front was killed and a military official from the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front was wounded near the entrance of the camp when they were hit by gunfire directed at them from outside the camp. The Palestinians were on their way to meet with a Syrian committee assigned to supervise the cease-fire called at 1400 today.

'9 February' Claims Attack on Syrian Post

NC250751 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] The 9 February organization has claimed responsibility for a rocket attack against a Syrian post in the building housing the Abu 'Ali river project in Tal'at al-Qubbah in Tripoli at dawn today. According to the organization, a number of persons were either killed or wounded.

Al-Asad, King Husayn Hold Talks in Damascus

JN251222 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Damascus—His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, held a meeting at the presidential palace in Damascus this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. It was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

King Husayn arrived in Damascus at noon today on a working visit to Syria. During his stay, he will hold talks with President Hafiz al-Asad within the framework of continuous coordination and consultation between the two sister countries and in light of the united Arab stand entrenched by the recent historic Arab summit in Amman.

His majesty and President al-Asad will discuss the implementation of the resolutions of the reconciliation and accord summit to achieve the higher Arab interests.

President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received his majesty at Damascus International Airport. His majesty was also received by Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al- Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', other ministers, and Jordan's Ambassador in Damascus 'Ali Khurays.

After shaking hands with those who received him, his majesty and President Hafiz al-Asad left the airport in an official motorcade to the presidential palace.

Upon departure from Amman, his majesty was seen off by Crown Prince Hasan, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the Armed Forces commander in chief, Royal Court senior officials, and the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i accompanied his majesty.

'Closed Meeting' Held

JN251247 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Damascus at noon today. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received him at the airport. He was also received by Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

After greeting the deputy prime ministers, the ministers, and the Jordanian Embassy staff in Damascus, his majesty and the president left in an official motorcade to the presidential palace.

His majesty and the president held a meeting which was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Jordan's Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

At 1330 today, the president and His Majesty King Husayn held a closed meeting.

Al-Zu'bi, Al-Rifa'i Hold 'Closed Meeting'

JN251446 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i held a closed meeting at the Prime Ministry at 1400 GMT. During this meeting, they discussed the steps being taken to develop bilateral relations and reinforce the march of cooperation, particularly in terms of reinforcing and activating the functions of joint companies. They also discussed issues related to developing cooperation between the two sister countries.

At 1445 today at the Prime Ministry, the two sides exchanged the ratification documents of the agreement for exploiting the Al-Yarmuk River signed between the two countries in Amman on 3 September 1987.

Ethiopian Official Arrives on 3-Day Visit

JN241028 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Damascus—Amanuel Michael, Political Bureau member of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia and People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia deputy State Council chairman, arrived in Damascus yesterday evening heading an official delegation on a 3-day visit to Syria. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' led those who welcomed him at the airport.

Received by Al-Asad

JN241739 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] At 1330 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Amanuel Michael, Political Bureau member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia and deputy chairman of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE] State Council, and his accompanying delegation.

The Ethiopian delegation comprises Musa Yasin, minister of national minorities in the State Council office; (Jimidal Gomega), minister for supervision and justice affairs; and (Hassan Ubayd), National Assembly member. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam attended the meeting.

Michael conveyed to the president a written message from President Mengistu Haile Mariam. The president thanked Michael and asked him to convey his greetings to the Ethiopian president and to the PDRE people and leadership. Talks dealt with bilateral relations and a number of issues of common interest in the Arab and African arenas.

Al-Asad To Visit Romania 'End of November'

JN241842 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad will pay an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania at the end of November at the invitation of Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Refutes Pakistani Claims

LD241058 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0503 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, November, 23, *Bakhtar*—Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA in reply to the question of *Bakhtar* reporter about the irresponsible assertions made by General Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan, in South Wazirestan said:

This is not the first time that General Ziaul Haq falls on others the cause of the disorders and the turmoil prevailing in that country against suffocation, dictatorship and [word indistinct] of the regime in order to keep the world public opinion away from the objective facts of the Pakistani society.

The people of Pakistan are bitterly dissatisfied of the fact that their country has become the springboard of aggression of imperialism and reaction against revolutionary Afghanistan and as a gendarme of the [word indistinct] and as a stooge has been armed to teeth with the modern weapons [words indistinct] the defence necessity of that country. The Pakistani people are also dissatisfied as they understand that the budget for the preservation of U.S strategic interests in the region is [words indistinct].

The people of Pakistan are worried about their own future as well as against the militarist and interventionist policy of General Ziaul Haq and have thus demonstrated their reactions by staging demonstrations and organising strikes despite an unlimited strangulation policy followed by the regime.

As far as it is concerned [word indistinct] the DRA we do not allow the autocratic general of Pakistan to pass incorrect and unrealistic judgment against our country and our international friends who have rushed to help the people of Afghanistan at a most sensitive and destiny-making moment.

The people of Afghanistan have religious, linguistic, traditional and blood links with the people of free tribes of Pashtun and Baluchi. Based on such relations, they have always unitedly foiled the plots of the enemies hatched against them. The holding of the high jirgah of tribes and the jirgah of free tribes of Pashtuns in Kabul city and the expression of their solidarity with the people of Afghanistan is evidently attesting to this fact.

Ziaul Haq will never be able to undermine this unity and solidarity by his futile words.

Yet this Pakistani general does not understand that the British colonialist in the course of two hundred years of the exercise of its cunning colonial policy in the subcontinent of India including the imposition of the administration of British type were not able to suffocate their love of freedom and independence by the force of bayonet.

The brave and freedom-loving people of tribes will never forget the crimes and barbarities of the repugnant regime of Islamabad committed against the peoples of the (?tribes) of Shinwar, Mowmand, Afridi and Turi in the last two years.

How can Ziaul Haq be hopeful to conceal its aggressive and anti-people face from Pashtuns by stating demagogic assertions.

Adhering to the prideful rites, (?customs) and traditions of their ancestors, the history always remembers that as the valorous Pashtuns have foiled the ominous plots of the British colonialists in the past they will now also give a crushing rebuff to the feverish strivings of the inheritors of British colonialists.

Launching of such hypocritical hue and cry in the land of Pashtuns can lead nowhere but to rousing wrath and indignation of its inhabitants and those of their brothers in Afghanistan.

The Government of Pakistan clearly realises the fact that the DRA, based on its peaceful foreign policy principles, intends to maintain sound good neighbourly relations with its neighbours and earnestly is willing to solve through peaceful means the situation around Afghanistan, which was created as a result of the interferences being made by the Pakistani regime, and its supporters.

The delegation of the DRA has been attending the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan with political good-will and necessary flexibility. But on the contrary the Government of Pakistan is always trying through new trickery and devilish attitudes to bring these negotiations in to a standstill.

Yet they claim that it is the DRA and the Soviet Union who do not want the talks to reach an agreement.

With the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation, by the party and state of the DRA, and readiness of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan to get rid of the monopoly of power on all dictate this reality that the DRA wishes peace be maintained in the country, peaceful work conditions be provided for the construction of a welfare society and the echo of even a single bullet not be heard in the country.

It must be added that here that the Islam religion is protected and observed more than any time in the past in the country. More then 25 million afghanis was allocated for the construction and repair of mosques in the DRA

last year. Millions of afghanis were assisted to the clergies by the state as well. In the draft constitution of Afghanistan the Islam religion is also inscribed as the religion of the people of Afghanistan.

It is of great wonder then how general Ziaul Haq allows himself to comment about the future of Islam religion and Islamic, free, independent and non-aligned country of Afghanistan and to declare that Pakistan wishes to look Afghanistan as an independent and Islamic country. These ascertain nothing other than hypocrisy and trickery.

Ziaul Haq prescribes the Islam renaissance in the Islamic country of Afghanistan. It hazardly [as received] is benefitting from the so-called allegation of occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union.

The Government of the DRA has repeatedly declared that the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union has been invited to Afghanistan on the basis of the friendship treaty of cooperation and good neighbourliness concluded in December of 1978 between the DRA and the Soviet Union and the Article 51 of the Charter of the UN to rebuff and deter foreign interventions in the internal affairs of the DRA. When the basic factor, i.e. foreign interventions in the internal (?affairs) of (?the DRA), are ceased and a reliable international guarantee is ensured, the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union will return to their country.

At the behest of its supporters Ziaul Haq is not in favour of the cessation of the undeclared war of imperialism against the DRA.

Kawiani Returns From Visit to Czechoslovakia

LD240306 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Comrade Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, who visited Czechoslovakia at the head of a PDPA Central Committee delegation at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, returned home today. Comrade Haydar Mas'ud, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and vice chairman of the PDPA's International Affairs Department [titled as heard], and Bohuslav Handl, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia to the DRA, were present at Kabul International Airport to receive him.

During his stay in Prague, Comrade Kawiani met with Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and president of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia, at the headquarters of the Central Committee of that party. He talked with him about the decisions of the PDPA's second nationwide conference regarding the convening of the Grand Assembly and the national reconciliation policy.

In response, the general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, on behalf of the state and people, welcomed the peaceful measures which have been promulgated by the PDPA and the DRA and expressed solidarity with the DRA's national reconciliation policy. Comrade Kawiani also met with Vasil Bilak, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, and signed a 5-year protocol on cooperation between the PDPA and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

USSR Planning Group Signs Protocol, Departs

LD231503 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto
1600 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, 23 Nov (*Bakhtar*)—The delegation of the USSR State Planning Committee, headed by Petr Paskar, deputy chairman of the committee, which came to Kabul a few days ago to take part in the sessions of the secondary commission on cooperation in planning affairs and to sign the protocol of the seventh session of that commission, left for home this morning.

Mahbullah Koshani, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of State Planning Committee; Muhammad 'Aziz, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; ministers of transportation and light industry and foodstuffs; deputy heads of the State Planning Committee; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union to the DRA; and a number of that embassy's staff saw the delegation off at Kabul International Airport.

Appointments to Council of Ministers Approved

LD241709 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] On the basis of a proposal by the Council of Ministers, which was approved by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, the following appointments have been made within the Council of Ministers:

Muhammad 'Aziz is appointed deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Dr Abdul Wahed Sorabi is appointed minister of higher and vocational education.

Muhammad Akbar Shormach is appointed minister of nationalities affairs.

Najibullah Awards Medals to Workers Brigades
LD242314 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, awarded the DRA Revolutionary Council's medals and badges to the work and construction brigades of the Institute of Kabul Polytechnic at the Revolutionary Council headquarters today.

These brigades, who voluntarily went to Qandahar in order to reconstruct that ruined city after a PDPA Central Committee Politburo decision was made in this regard, have returned to Kabul after successfully carrying out their tasks.

According to a BIA report, a large meeting was held in the Salam Khanah Palace, headquarters of the DRA Revolutionary Council, in their honor. Comrades Farid Ahmad Mozdak, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and first secretary of the DOYA; Khodadad Basharmal, in charge of the education, science, and public health section of the PDPA; academic staff of the State Institute of Medicine; and some of the academic staff of Kabul Polytechnic Institute also attended the meeting.

The participants first laid a wreath at the memorial monument to the [April] Revolution's Martyrs, then paid a visit to the DYOA painting and photographic exhibition. [passage omitted]

Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, addressed the meeting. He stated:

On behalf of the PDPA and the DRA Revolutionary Council, I thank the party committee of Kabul Polytechnic Institute and its leadership, the Ministry of Higher and Professional Education, and the DYOA Central Committee for the great work done by the reconstruction brigades. The great work you have achieved in a very important area of the country, for the purpose of rebuilding the country and reestablishing tranquility for the people, demonstrates the political maturity of you young people. There is no doubt that your toiling plays an important role in the prosperity of the country. Our state and country's policy of national reconciliation, cessation of war, and development work, which continues successfully, needs the help of young people and students.

Comrade Najibullah then awarded the PDPA Central Committee [word indistinct] to the collective of the Kabul Polytechnic Institute and the DYOA Central Committee and decorated some students with the Red Flag Medal of Honor and the Medal of Honesty and Sacrifice.

Dr Muhammed Hoseyn Helali, dean of the Kabul Polytechnic Institute, and Borhan Ghayisi spoke about the activities of the brigades of work and construction and asserted on behalf of the institute the aim of working toward the implementation of national reconciliation and the decisions of the second nationwide PDPA conference.

In conclusion, Farid Mozdak, first secretary of the DYOA, thanked the PDPA Central Committee for the attention it paid to the work of the construction brigades on behalf of whom he vowed to work hard for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and the resolutions and decisions of the second nationwide PDPA conference.

Rebels Surrender in Kabul, Kapisa Provinces
LD231139 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 22 Nov 87

[text] A group of rebels consisting of 100 armed men under the command of (Mewa Jan), who was engaged in armed operations in the Qarabagh district of Kabul, laid down their arms today. They have accepted the national reconciliation policy.

According to the *Bakhtar Information Agency*, these compatriots were greeted by Kabul Province party and state officials.

According to another report, a 10-member group, which was involved in armed operations under the command of (Muhammad Taleb) in Kapisa Province, today abandoned armed activities and, with 21 other unarmed men, joined in the national reconciliation policy.

Mujahidin Attack Kabul Airport, Morghab Convoy
LD241214 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin inflicted considerable damage on Soviet installations and equipments and set ablaze several of their planes by shelling Kabul airport two weeks ago. A Soviet warplane reconnoitering mujahidin's positions was also downed.

Mujahidin also made a surprise attack on a supply convoy of joint forces in Morghab, Badghis Province, and set afire four tanks and three vehicles, killing and wounding a group of the forces.

Twelve Afghan forces defected en masse to mujahidin after firing at the occupying forces and killing several Soviets.

In another attack in Herat on November 7 the mujahidin dealt heavy blows on the Afghan Government forces and killed nine officers while 23 soldiers defected.

Bangladesh

Opposition Alliances Plan 29 Nov Strike

BK291005 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, the main opposition alliances have announced a 72-hour nationwide hartal [strike] from Sunday as part of their agitation demanding the resignation of the present government. The liaison committee of the three alliances said in a statement that the opposition will also organize torch marches and rallies in support of the agitation.

Meanwhile, reports of clashes between rival political groups are coming from different parts of the country. Our Dhaka correspondent reports that journalists and several others working in newspapers organized rallies and brought out processions in Dhaka yesterday.

Radio on Call for Strike

BK250451 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Production and other work in industrial units were normal yesterday and attendance of the workers and employees was satisfactory. All the 22 industrial units under the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation functioned normally. Out of a total of 19 units under the (Teedan) Engineering Corporation work in 17 went on normally while in (Plobis) partially. Twelve sugar mills out of 16 under the Sugar and Food Industry Corporation continued crushing of sugar cane. The Dhaka vegetable oil mills also functioned normally.

Train services functioned normally all over the country despite [the] hartal [strike] call by a section of the opposition yesterday. A railway press release says nine trains including five intercity trains left Dhaka for different destinations from 0600 to 1400 yesterday while seven trains reached Dhaka during the same period including Mahanagore, (Chulahati) and Urmiaruna from Chittagong and Jayantika from Sylhet. During the period five trains left Chittagong including three intercity trains and five trains reached Chittagong including Mahanagore, (Chulahati), and Urmiaruna from Dhaka and Meghna from Chandpur.

Besides, train service was normal all over the country including Sylhet, Khulna, Parvatipur and Lalmanir Hat sections.

Home Minister on Detention for Violent Crimes

BK240319 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] The deputy prime minister in charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Prof M.A. Matin, has said steps have been strengthened to check acts of arson and bomb blasts. He was discussing the law and order situation with senior police officers in the capital yesterday. He said the persons found guilty for acts of violence will be tried in special tribunals. Orders have already been issued for long-term detention of such persons.

India

Vorontsov Meets With Singh; Ryzhkov With Pant

BK241607 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] The first Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Y.M. Vorontsov, called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in New Delhi today. They discussed, among other things, the situation in Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

The Soviet leader appreciated the efforts made by India to find a solution to the Kampuchean problem. Both sides agreed that there is a stake in the independent, sovereign, and nonaligned status of Afghanistan. The situation in West Asia also figured in their talks.

The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, called on the Soviet prime minister, Mr N.I. Ryzhkov, in New Delhi today. During their meeting, they discussed matters pertaining to the strengthening of bilateral cooperation and development in the region.

Further on Visit by USSR Prime Minister

Confers With Commerce Minister

BK241021 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] New Delhi hopes to sign a trade protocol with Moscow for the export of engineering goods to the Soviet Union. Disclosing this in the Rajya Sabha today, the commerce minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, said he had detailed discussions with the visiting Soviet prime minister, Mr Ryzhkov, this morning in this regard.

Replying to a supplementary, the minister said [the] government has not received any official figures so far from the World Bank about India's trade deficit during the current financial year. He said he had a general discussion with the World Bank president during his recent visit, who complimented the government and the parliamentarians for their efforts to combat drought. He said despite drought conditions, exports during April to September this year went up by 26.5 percent as compared to the same period last year. Imports during the same period increased by only 12.6 percent, indicating a decline in the trade deficit.

In reply to a separate question, Mr Tiwari said a French mission would be visiting India in the next 2 months to discuss efforts for stepping up Indian exports to France.

In reply to the main question, the minister of state for commerce, Mr P.R. Das Munshi, said government has taken a number of steps to reduce trade deficit. He said India is seeking French assistance for greater access to the EEC market.

Gives News Conference

BK251049 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 25 (AFP)—Soviet troops will withdraw from Afghanistan if "outside interference" ceases in the land-locked Asian country, Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov said here Wednesday.

The Soviet premier, addressing a news conference at the end of his six-day visit to India, also expressed support for Indian efforts to find a solution to Sri Lanka's bloody ethnic conflict.

Mr Ryzhkov on Tuesday announced a credit of 884 million U.S. dollars to India and signed a protocol raising bilateral trade to a record 4.2 billion dollars for 1988—a 25 percent leap over this year's anticipated figures.

The boost to Indo-Soviet trade was part of an agreement reached here one year ago between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to more than double their trade in the next five years.

Mr Ryzhkov, who held two rounds of talks with Mr Gandhi, said the two countries held "either close or coincidental" positions on all world problems.

He said the Soviet Union stood "for the withdrawal of the limited Soviet troops from Afghanistan."

"Once the issue is finally settled on ending outside military interference, the Soviet Union will withdraw its troops," Mr Ryzhkov said. "We stand for a peaceful settlement of the situation in Afghanistan," he said, and called upon the world to support the Afghan government's attempts to find a negotiated solution.

"They (Kabul) have accepted the idea of coalition government... They have also agreed to have a president who will be above all. We should support the process. I regret that many people are just criticising without giving positive support."

He did not mention the July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, but said in an opening statement that the Soviet Union supported measures taken by India to try to end the more than four-year Tamil separatist campaign. "We support the steps (taken by India). This is of greatest importance for greater stability in Asia," the Soviet premier said, adding Mr Gandhi had given him a detailed account of Indian moves in Sri Lanka.

Mr Ryzhkov said Moscow and Washington were normalising their ties.

The Soviet Union is India's second largest trading partner, after the United States, and its biggest arms supplier. The two countries are bound by a 25-year treaty that calls for mutual assistance in case of aggression.

Mr Ryzhkov said the forthcoming nuclear treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union would be the first step towards making the world nuclear-free. "The next step should be removal of strategic offensive arms," he said.

He said he was satisfied with his talks with Indian leaders, including Mr Gandhi, and that a year-long Soviet cultural festival he opened here last week would boost traditional friendship between the two nations.

He said there was "rethinking" in his country on all aspects of society, in particular established economic formulations. "But we have no intention to change socialist democracy to bourgeois democracy. These are two practically opposite concepts."

Concludes Visit, Departs

BK250904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] The Soviet prime minister, Mr Ryzhkov, has expressed the hope that the trade between India and his country will increase by 2 and 1/2 times. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr Ryzhkov said the new agreement signed yesterday will pave the way for bringing the people of the two countries closer. He also expressed happiness over the achievements made by India and the implementation of various projects through Soviet assistance. Mr Ryzhkov said the festivals of India and of the Soviet Union being held in each other's country are a sign of remarkable friendship.

He expressed satisfaction over his visit to India and the talks he had with Indian leaders. The Soviet prime minister said he had substantial talks with Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He said India occupies an important place in his country's relations, as the friendship constitutes an important factor on the global scene. Mr Ryzhkov said India and his country continue to work for the universal peace.

Replying to a number of questions, the Soviet prime minister said his country supports the steps being taken by India to solve the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. He reiterated his country's stand for elimination of strategic and nuclear arms and expressed the hope that the United States will reciprocate.

On Afghanistan, he said his country stands for a political settlement for which positive trends are underway. Mr Ryzhkov said once the issue to put an end to outside military interference is settled, the Soviet Union will

withdraw its troops. Regarding Pakistan's attempts to acquire nuclear arms, Mr Ryzhkov said his country is against proliferation of nuclear weapons across the world. This is true in regard to Pakistan also.

Mr Ryzhkov since left New Delhi for Moscow this afternoon at the end of a 6-day visit to the country. He was seen off at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and his Cabinet colleagues.

USSR Cooperation Agreements, Protocols Signed

BK241640 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] India and the Soviet Union today signed six agreements and protocols covering cooperation in wide-ranging areas. The first agreement signed between the prime ministers of the two countries relate to economic and technical cooperation. It covers Karnal oil refinery and a thermal power station with a credit of 1,150 crore rupees.

The trade protocol for the year 1988 envisages an increase in the bilateral trade turnover to 5,000 crore rupees. This is 25 percent more than the anticipated turnover of 4,000 crore rupees during the current year. The protocol also emphasizes new forms of cooperation, including production, joint ventures, and servicing sector.

Two protocols were signed in the field of education. The first protocol covers cooperation in higher education and training of students and highly qualified specialists during 1987-88. The second protocol is on recognition of certificates, degrees, and diplomas awarded by the universities and other educational and scientific organizations and institutions in the two countries.

An agreement signed between the finance and commerce minister, Mr N. D. Tiwari, and the deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union, Mr V. M. Kamentsev, provides for development of new forms of economic cooperation. Another agreement in the field of tourism was signed.

Soviet Reportage on Ryzhkov Visit, Activities

For Soviet media coverage of the visit to India by Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers, including his participation in the "USSR Festival in India," see the Near East & South Asia section of the 20 November Soviet Union *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Gorbachev

BK250342 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] The 1987 Indira Gandhi prize for peace, disarmament, and development has been awarded to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. This has been decided by the international jury of the prize in recognition of Mr Gorbachev's bold and imaginative proposals to initiate a positive and practical program of nuclear disarmament and his vision of a nonaligned world free of nuclear weapons. This was announced by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust in New Delhi this morning.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Defeat of Western 'Plots'

LD241606 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0933 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani at a gathering of mobilization personnel from Khorasan Province in Mashhad on 23 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I thank God for granting me and the Majlis deputies from Khorasan the opportunity to attend this huge and emotional ceremony, to be among you, dear warriors and selfless mobilization personnel, beside the holy shrine of the eighth imam, 'Ali ibn Musa al-Reza. In surveying this glorious scene, this huge crowd, a group like you who have taken their lives and livelihood into their hands and brought them into the arena to consolidate Islam and exhalt the sacred concept of monotheism, one cannot but be impressed. Indeed, one is so impressed that before this holy altar one feels overcome by God's blessing and sheltered by His mercy. [passage omitted]

The present situation is a result of the conspiracy to impose the war on us in a bid to weaken the revolution. If what we see shows the victory of the counterrevolution, if it reflects the triumph of the oppressors and the victory of the Ba'thist Party, if this is a defeat for the revolution, if it proves the revolution's weakness, then we can say that the plot to impose the war on us has been a success. If that is not so, which seems to be the case, then we are the best example of the verse: They plot and God plots, verily God is the best of plotters.

We have seen strange things, and have looked on as the plots of our enemies have turned against them. The Ba'th Party was given missiles so it could hit our cities. They thought this weapon would force Iran to surrender. That made us think of missiles, too. Now the situation is such that Iran can decide at any moment to strike Baghdad with its missiles. Iran has made Iraq's capital city quite unsafe, and the Iraqis can do nothing about it. [chants]

The conspiracy to equip Iraq with missiles led to Iran's emergence as a powerful force armed with missiles. Consequently, all our enemies, in the south and the west, Iraq, Arab reactionaries, and the owners of the missiles themselves, are now sorry to have shown us the way. This is God's plot in the face of those hatched by the weak.

They devised another conspiracy, that is, they gave Iraq the chance to attack ships and oil facilities. They provided it with Super-Etendards and long-range Exocet missiles. They thought they could cut off Iran's basic economic resources. Consequently, Iraq was deprived of its access to the sea, and its war partners were threatened. It reached the point where global arrogance unwillingly accepted the disgrace of interfering in the conflict in favor of its servant.

Now, as we know, NATO forces—the gang of Western arrogance—have entered the scene to safeguard their servants in the Persian Gulf. They came here to protect the Iraqi Ba'thists on the pretext of maintaining security, which resulted in their disgrace. They were unable to preserve security, protect their friends, or tie our nation's hands. What better evidence could we find to prove that the plots of world arrogance, pagans, and the enemies of Islam have been foiled?

Then we did not have suitable missiles at sea. This action of theirs resulted in Iran gaining the power to answer their attack on an isolated oil platform. It led to a great oil terminal, one used by arrogant powers and a source of strength for Iraqi aggression, to be destroyed by long-range missiles fired from divine bows. This is God's plot. [chants]

We now come to the final ploy, the final plot, and we are presenting the evidence of its failure. My preface was for this part of the talk. The unprecedented presence of world colonialism in the Persian Gulf seeks to rescue Saddam. It is also designed to maintain a military presence in the region, safeguard those reactionary regimes that act as the puppets of arrogance, threaten and frighten the Islamic Republic, and try our nerves. The aim of all this is to get us to leave the aggressor Ba'thists alone. They used the Security Council and unsheathed the rusty and obsolete weapon of economic blockade. They raised their propaganda to a crescendo to silence this nation and to snuff out this divine light in Iran. Now let us see what they have accomplished, what they were after, and what has come to pass. That will enable us to see how God guides this nation, blocks the path of arrogance, and opens the way for us with the glow He has bestowed upon us. They wanted to frighten this nation. They wanted us to give in to pressure and accept an imposed peace or cease-fire and forgo our rights. However, that did not happen. Is this not the opposite of their wishes? We are taking our first step. One cannot easily foresee the outcome of this new situation. We have yet to sit in final judgment. But, on the threshold of this new stage, one can make a preliminary forecast. If, today, 400,000 mobilization personnel assemble before the holy shrine of the eighth imam to reaffirm their allegiance and declare a holy war; if among this flowing tide of special human beings we see representatives of every sector of the nation, soldiers, members of the Guards Corps, mobilization personnel, clergy, merchants, blue and white collar workers, and so on; if we observe this bravery and unity; if, today, throughout the province, a million people are shouting slogans of "war, war, until victory" in the streets; if the same hustle and bustle is going on all over the country, this is the result of the schemes of America and our enemies.

If America, Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Arab reactionaries, and Saddam had not hatched their latest plot concerning the presence of the superpowers in the region to silence us, Iran would have seen no need for this gigantic movement. It would have seen no need to invite the people to wage a financial holy war. And the waves of people, ready to do holy war, would not be directed at and threatening arrogance and reaction. All their efforts to frighten us were wasted and have turned in our favor. What our nation expected, what our friends around the world awaited, is happening. For the first time in the history of the war, the people are acting in such a way that the nerves of arrogance are being tried. This will undoubtedly frighten America and confuse the policies of arrogance still further. [chants]

I could mention a great many things that are happening as a result of this phase, which I will bring to your attention. One of the real, long-term, divisive, and hypocritical plots hatched by the Americans in the last few years was to move in a way that would damage the anti-imperialist aspect of the Islamic revolution and weaken or cause a break in relations between the Islamic revolution and the many anti-imperialist movements in the world. Although they tried very hard to achieve this, they stupidly came to the Persian Gulf. Their presence there has undone all their tricks and their work has gone to waste.

Today, all sincere anti-imperialist forces in the world know that under the blue sky and on this earth, the only nation prepared to tackle the monster of Western oppression, the only country not intimidated by threats, the one loyal to its principles and ready to shed its blood to the last drop, is the revolutionary and Muslim nation of Iran.

You should know that just as the hearts of our people were filled with anger toward aggressive America and the oppressive West before the revolution, the same conditions prevail in many Third World countries—in Asia, in Africa, in Latin America, and even in Europe. America's bullying tactics have become a problem for the people of Europe. Today, hundreds of millions of people have trained their eyes upon you. They all admire this revolutionary movement and the courage and bravery that makes you declare war on America without batting an eye and makes you give suitable and timely replies to America's acts of aggression. Such honor for a revolution that was the subject of a futile propaganda campaign to portray it as a reactionary movement is invaluable.

Today, the Islamic Republic, accompanied by the hearts of liberated men, is the most progressive movement in the world. Though they might not be Muslims, they have a close relationship with our nation. That is a great victory at this point in time. It is God's plot to undo the plots of others.

The other bit of damage they suffered was to bring their enemies into the arena. The bitter incident, the disgraceful tragedy that occurred in Mecca, where hundreds of God's guests were martyred beside holy Ka'ba and in the sanctuary of God's holy mosques in Mecca, bore the clear hallmarks of the doomed hands of America, Iraq, and our counterrevolutionaries. Thus, the unified counterrevolutionary movement was disgraced and the servants of America, who see themselves as the servants of the two holy mosques and servants to their pilgrims, were exposed.

This is only the beginning. If this stage ends with America losing its bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan, with the Arab nation ridding itself of those lying hypocrites swimming in wealth, who are taking advantage of the Islamic world's resources and have imposed their rule over the holy Ka'ba, which is a source for promoting Islam and spreading the teachings of the Koran, if at this juncture and because of such a move, because of such a plot by God, such a disgrace befalls them, it would be the most beneficial outcome. This should occur to save the region. It is all the better that this is happening now and in the fight against the Islamic Republic. All the better that the palaces they built to last for centuries will, God willing, be conquered by our warriors. [chants]

Their other trick... [Hashemi-Rafsanjani interrupted by chants] wait a minute; the other trick that hurt the plotters themselves was their stage-managed shows at the United Nations and the Security Council. Through their propaganda, they tried to claim that revolutionary Iran was intransigent, stubborn, and warmongering. However, Almighty God directed us to proclaim the rights of our nation and revolution and show the ways of punishing the 'Aflaqi aggressor. Thus, God has foiled their conspiracy and today a clear program and idea exist for ending the conflict. We said: If your intentions are good, you should identify the aggressor and set up a court.

When we stage a broad mobilization of our forces today and beat the drums of war, this runs alongside the idea raised at the United Nations. The biased individuals and mass media that fabricate news can no longer call us warmongers. It is Iran that is carrying the proposal for justice to the world on one hand to end this dispute, while on the other, it has invited its nation to enter the arena to guarantee the implementation of this just thesis and this charter of justice. Any logical mind in the world today realizes that Iran has followed the proper path, and that the United States, which is sending forces to the Persian Gulf to implement the Security Council's imposed resolution, is seen by the public as the bullying aggressor and as a force interfering in the affairs of others. Iran is recognized as the party defending its rights.

The things I mentioned demonstrate that God Almighty guides you. He has put His guiding light along the path of this revolution to lead our people. The more you think about this great favor from God, the more you appreciate it. The more you think about this path of justice, the more you realize that it is correct and in line with Islamic and humane principles. We are now on the threshold of this situation. Fortunately, the climate of holy war created in our society was quick to influence the front. You know that your combative brothers, who are ready to welcome you there, launched the "Zafar-2" and "Zafar-4" operations deep inside Iraq last week. They also staged their "Nasr-8" actions on some of Iraq's most sensitive and strategic heights. These moves are very significant, and will break the enemy. [chants] During these very important operations, of which you have not heard the final outcome, our dear brothers from Khorasan, the Imam Reza Brigade, played an extensive part. You have a share in this victory. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, I must say that our nation, our ulema, our officials, the deputies of our Islamic Majlis, and all academic personalities and the mass media should recognize that under today's circumstances, which we again owe to divine mercy, we need unity, solidarity, sincerity, and loyalty. We must forget all the grievances and other matters that might be obstacles to unity among our officials, in our revolution, and in our affairs. Today, you dear ones and our entire nation should recognize that there is no sin greater than the creation of discord among our masses, something to which certain individuals might resort to satisfy their own material desires and achieve their own gains.

A nation that feels it is fighting against the entire world of blasphemy, a nation that sees global arrogance united against it, a nation that sees reaction, Zionism, imperialism, and counterrevolution joining hands to eliminate Islam, cannot justify seeking division for the sake of different tastes and certain ideas that might differ in minor instances. It is not fair to raise the cry of discord and division while our dear ones are fighting at the front. Those who are supposed to support our warriors should in no way allow themselves to distract the attention of those dear ones from the front. Our warriors should not worry about things behind the front. Such things should not be permitted to stand in the way of holy war and victory.

I hope that, God willing, you will follow my honest advice. May God be with you. We pray that our warriors will return happy and victorious from the front. May God free our dear prisoners from Iraqi jails so we may welcome them triumphantly. May God grant good health to those disabled in the service of the revolution. May He grant patience to the families of our martyrs and may He reward them. May God grant the same status to the souls of our martyrs as to those of the saints. Undoubtedly, the souls of these great martyrs are now flying above your heads. May God Almighty bring back healthy and happy those warriors classed as missing in action. May God preserve the lofty shadow of the imam of the ummah over the heads of this nation and all revolutionary nations. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

'Diplomatic Sources' on Soviet Defense Pact
JN232143 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 22 Nov 87 pp 1, 23

[Excerpt] Moscow—Arab diplomatic sources in the Soviet capital have told *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* that Iran will soon conclude a joint defense pact with the USSR and that Iranian-Soviet negotiations on this have made great strides. The signing of the treaty is expected to take place during a visit to Moscow by a ranking Iranian delegation led by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani within the next 2 weeks.

According to these sources, the Iranian Majlis speaker told Western delegations in Iran that Tehran is on the verge of concluding a joint defense pact with the Soviet Union to confront foreign fleets in the Gulf. Hashemi-Rafsanjani informed these delegations that following intensive secret negotiations with the Soviets, his country has agreed to provide permanent naval and ground facilities to the USSR. He added that hundreds of Soviet military experts will arrive in Iran in the next few days to supervise the creation of these bases and that some of these Soviet advisers will work in the Iranian Army.

The sources cited members of one delegation as saying that Hashemi-Rafsanjani had declared that the Iranian Army will obtain sophisticated Soviet weapons that neither the Arab countries nor even Syria had ever received from the Soviet Union before. [passage omitted]

Khomeyni Receives Military Personnel, Others
LD241318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that another group of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps personnel stationed in Jamaran, together with their families, a group of mobilization and military personnel, and people from various walks of life met with the imam of the ummah in Jamaran Mosque this morning. [passage omitted]

At the end of the visit, the imam of the ummah responded to the expressions of emotion by the audience.

Prime Minister Addresses Mobilization Ceremony
LD251317 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Excerpts] The town of Yasuj was the scene of great exercises today staged by mobilized forces from Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkilyueh Province. An IRNA correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] The Grand Muhammad Forces began their exercises in Yasuj this morning with indescribable glory. Twenty-five organized divisions took part. Yasuj looked different today, and chants of war, war until victory and death to America echoed in the city as never before. Organized divisions from the Muhammad Corps, which began arriving in Yasuj from various parts of Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh Province yesterday evening, marched along the route of the parade. They also showed their strong will and determination to continue the war until final victory. These troops then assembled in the Shahid Paydar Sports Complex. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who came to Yasuj to take part in the gathering of the Muhammad Forces, delivered a speech. He elaborated on the fruits of the glorious Islamic revolution and explained that this sacred movement relies on power derived from the faith of our heroic nation of Iran. He declared: Today, the superpowers and other oppressive forces in the world have their own values, weapons, atomic bombs, and servants in the region that act as their arms.

Iran's Islamic revolution has arms of its own. The strongest of these are the good and faithful people. These exercises and glorious gatherings bear witness to this claim. Our people will no longer tolerate the disgrace of serving or being subservient to large and small states in the world. With their holy strength, our people will defeat them all.

Finally, our country's prime minister highlighted the need to continue the war until final victory. He stated: You tribesmen of Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh Province should know that such gatherings in towns and provinces will shake those devouring the world. We say to the enemies of our Islamic country and to those abject and subservient shaykhs that we are stronger today than we were on the 1st day of the revolution. We are better prepared, stronger, and more capable of resisting conspiracies and go forth, God willing.

Rafiqdust on Weapons Production, New Tugboat
LD242045 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan Prov. Nov. 24, IRNA—The first-ever Iranian-made tug-boat with a capacity of 180 tons will be launched within the next few days, revealed Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust here Tuesday.

He also disclosed that the IRGC Ministry is studying plans for design and manufacture of other large vessels, adding that mass production of various military equipment such as weapons, ammunition and communication sets has already started.

The IRGC minister, here to inspect the grand maneuvers staged by 150,000-strong Muhammad (SAW) Corps in this western province today, also expressed hope that Iran's small purchases of foreign weapons will be cut in the future.

Addressing the volunteers who staged the grand military exercises, the IRGC minister said "all infidels and unbelievers have joined hands to fight you and prevent the spread of the Islamic revolution." The Islamic revolution is not restricted to Iran but is a global Islamic revolution, he added.

Rafiqdust called on people to be further present on the battle fields of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Number of 'Resistance Bases' To Reach 20,000

NC250946 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] On the eve of Mobilization Week, Mr Mohammad 'Ali Rahmani, commander of the Mobilization of the Oppressed of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, gave an interview to a correspondent from the Central News Unit. In the interview, he spoke about some of the events planned for Mobilization Week. Referring to recent incidents in the Persian Gulf, he said: The United States tried to continue its policy of pressuring our nation. By bringing its ships to the Persian Gulf it thought it could create an atmosphere of terror and pave the way to imposing peace, just as it imposed the war on us. Fortunately, though, the timely decision of the Supreme Council for War Support prompted an immense movement throughout the country in response to the aggression of world arrogance. Today we see expressions of our nation's support and zeal across the country. We have seen how our nation is preparing itself to inflict blows on the aggressor, especially criminal America. He added: We now see how hundreds of thousands of people in each province are displaying their readiness. Of course, the outcome of this movement will be the great dispatch to the fronts of the Corps of Muhammad, peace be upon him and his scion. He continued: More extensive departures will take place throughout Mobilization Week, and we hope that in the future, when the powerful action of our warriors removes the Zionist regime ruling Iraq, we can establish peace in the region.

The commander of the Mobilization of the Oppressed then discussed some of the events planned for Mobilization Week. He noted: During this week, with God's help, we will have extensive dispatches in addition to the large-scale exercises that will take place throughout the country. Among the plans for Mobilization Week is the inauguration of 4,000 resistance bases, which will raise the total of these facilities from 16,000 to 20,000. There will also be, God willing, nationwide "Khandaq" maneuvers by the Basijis with the participation of 600,000 organized Basiji forces. These units will display the means used to establish security across the country. The exercises will give the Basijis yet another opportunity to show their combat strength.

Commentary Urges Support for War Effort

LD251101 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Islamic Revolution Guards Corps" program]

[Text] The victorious trend in the war has brought us varied and valuable experience. The esteemed leader of the revolution has emphasized the need to finish the conflict, saying: The imposed war takes priority over everything else. People from all walks of life must pool their efforts for victory. Apparently, this is now clear to everyone. It is now essential, and has been given top priority. The fact that the time is now ripe for a comprehensive move at the fronts and for a final, fatal blow to the shaken and rotten corps of the criminal party ruling in Iraq has been proven to all.

To meet this legitimate demand and ensure a favorable and victorious future, everyone should devote himself entirely to the war. This important call and great mission, that is, to do one's duty and protect Islam's noble values, would be discharged by going to the front and providing the equipment and facilities needed there.

The Supreme War Support Council's message and plan, which were announced with the imam's permission, rest on the principle that the people should be suitably prepared and that the proper conditions should be made available for comprehensive national participation in the holy task of defense. The message gives greater importance to the fact that, if we are to end this full-fledged war, there should be a greater popular presence. After all, in these extraordinary times, this is the only practical and sure way to secure our victory and defeat the enemy.

The Muslim people of Iran should realize that world oppression, led by the Arch Satan, criminal America, has marshaled its forces to break our resistance and impose its will on us. It watches our every move, and in making its plans, it undoubtedly takes account of the extent of participation and the state of readiness of the brave nation of Iran. Therefore, at this sensitive juncture and at this new phase of the conflict, it is our duty to rush to the front in flood-like waves and begin our series of crushing operations by meeting the needs of our warriors. Once again, we should demonstrate the strength of our courageous fighters and the power of the Islamic Republic.

Fortunately, since great numbers of selfless volunteers are going to the fronts to clash with the warmongers, and in view of the level of donations received in recent days, which are still coming in, the commanders and officials responsible for the conflict can now make their plans with peace of mind. They will be able to put these plans into effect when the time is right. In that case, the possibility of certain victory will increase and the enemy will face defeat and failure.

U.S. Rejects Proposal for Geneva Meeting

JN250928 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Nov 87 pp 1, 20

[Unattributed "Exclusive" report]

[Text] Preparations are currently under way to hold an expanded political meeting between the U.S. and Iranian Governments in Geneva next week.

According to well-connected sources in Geneva, the U.S. ambassador there recently received an Iranian Government offer to send a delegation to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is holding a final round of talks with his Soviet counterpart on medium-range missiles in Europe. These sources note that Shultz declined to meet the Iranians. Nevertheless, preparations for the arrival of the new U.S. defense secretary, Frank Carlucci, in Switzerland next week give the impression that Carlucci will be taking over negotiations with Iran. These negotiations derive their importance from the fact that they come just days before the U.S.-Soviet summit.

Tehran Views Reagan's Political 'Difficulties'
LD251348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Political commentary]

[Text] Following the publication of the report compiled by a joint committee in the U.S. Congress on McFarlane's abortive trip to Tehran, the American press has devoted a great deal of space to explaining the implications of that affair and Reagan's role in it. Therefore, in view of the report's clear condemnation of Reagan for illegal acts that have been committed, it seems that after a short interval the White House is again faced with new difficulties.

After the publication of the Tower Commission report, which was based largely on the idea of absolving the President and placing the blame for the mistakes and illegal acts on his entourage, especially members of the National Security Council, Reagan tried hard, through a number of important appointments and dismissals and by naming individuals acceptable to Congress, to save himself from that dangerous dead end. He has also worked to regain his former standing. However, the publication of the joint committee report by the Senate and House of Representatives has virtually neutralized Reagan's efforts and presented him with a new set of problems. The report clearly states that by following certain policies, the President created a climate in which all those involved in covert and illicit activities knew that their actions were illegal, but were certain that the President was satisfied with them.

Furthermore, the report treats Reagan's other claim about the controversial question of arms supplies to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries with suspicion and doubt.

In any case, under the current circumstances and with only 15 months left in Reagan's presidency, the publication of the report could give his rivals a useful document that can play an effective role in isolating the Republicans. However, given the dangerous state of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf and their increased vulnerability if domestic problems worsen, their rivals, too, will try to prevent the aggravation of problems. In turn, the Reagan administration is trying to extinguish the flames of the controversy as soon as possible by making unprecedented concessions to its opponents. By resorting to such unparalleled measures as the conclusion of an arms control agreement with the Soviet Union, Reagan is trying by any means to prevent a Republican defeat in the elections. One may also view the recent agreement between the Congress and the White House on the budget issue, especially in view of the enormity of their differences and Reagan's former obstinacy, as part of the same process. In any case, the release of the joint committee report will not be the end of the matter, either. The publication of the special prosecutor's findings will also give new insights into the corruption and ineptitude of America's ruling circles. If the results of the special prosecutor's investigations are made public, this disgrace will assume criminal dimensions involving some of the leading characters in the affair, such as Poindexter and Oliver North. In that case, this fiasco will enter a new phase, and Reagan will be confronted with fresh problems and difficulties.

For instance, Reagan can seek the assistance of these people, and, by using his legal prerogatives, he can pardon them. This will undoubtedly cause a reaction in the United States, including accusations that Reagan obstructed the course of law and justice.

Furthermore, he may be accused of complicity with a number of criminals during his term as President. On the other hand, if he does nothing to help these former senior officials in his White House, he will have to face the expectations of those who demand Reagan's support as head of the U.S. Administration and the White House and as the person responsible for the McFarlane fiasco. In that case, these and other emerging problems will create a new crisis for Reagan, in addition to his current troubles following the disgraceful McFarlane case. All this comes at a time when investigations into the matter continue. It has been announced that the special prosecutor has questioned 1,000 people about this thus far. He is also said to have studied thousands of pages of the file on that fiasco.

The development of events following the exposure of McFarlane's abortive trip to Tehran has demonstrated the scale of lies, corruption, hypocrisy, and vulnerability of America's ruling circles to a remarkable degree. Of course, despite the continuous propaganda of American media and the European press, this disgrace does not merely involve Reagan's incompetence and the shortsightedness of his team. On the contrary, it reveals the weakness and vulnerability of the tyrannical policies that will be further exposed as a result of the awakening and uprising of Muslim nations.

Impounded Greek Ship Released; Captain Comments
LD241735 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Bushehr, Nov. 24, IRNA—The Greek ship '*Jimilta*' impounded by Iranian naval forces Saturday night

despite intervention of four U.S. helicopters, was released and steamed out of Iranian waters Monday night.

Minutes before departure, the ship's captain Andreas Verisotis explained that before the ship's interception a radio message was monitored cautioning that a minefield lay ahead. "That's why we changed our scheduled Khawr Fakkan -Al-Shu'aybah course without realising that we had entered Iranian waters," he added.

Verisotis continued, in the meantime Iranian naval forces warned the ship to stop, but "we didn't notice and on other hand an unidentified radio message told us to sail on." He said the ship continued sailing anyway, which brought warning shots on it, with an order by an Iranian naval officer to immediately stop. "This time we stopped and anchored near the Farsi Island."

Suddenly, said the captain, two helicopters were seen approaching the ship from the stern side. The helicopters' nationality was not known, and "I am sure they did not belong to Iran", said Verisotis.

The Greek captain praised Iranian forces for their kind and good behaviour towards the ship's crew which came as a pleasant relief considering the poisonous propaganda tirade against them in the Western media.

Meanwhile, a senior Iranian naval officer told IRNA here that the U.S. helicopters, which tried to prevent the interception of the Greek vessel, were the silent reconnaissance HH06 helicopters.

The officer said *Jimilta* had steamed from the U.A.E. port of Khawr Fakkan on the Oman Sea after replenishing foodstuff and fuel supplies and was enroute to Kuwait's Al-Shu'aybah port, where it was to load a sulphur shipment for Alexandria, Egypt.

He said the 29,000-ton vessel has sustained some damage in the lower parts and needs to be repaired before loading.

Press Comments on Incident

LD231529 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 23 Nov 87

[From the "Review of the Press Headlines"]

[Text] Following Saturday evening's incident involving the Greek ship *Jimilta*, during which the forces of Islam succeeded in directing the Greek vessel to an Iranian port for a more detailed inspection despite the aggressive actions of U.S. helicopters, we have chosen an article from today's press entitled: "The United States Should Return to its Borders." We now draw your attention to this article:

When performing its duty and missions, the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran does not show the slightest hesitation. It will confront any aggressive move by any mighty power. Asserting this fact, the commander of the Navy warned Washington to abandon its aggressive moves in the Persian Gulf; otherwise, it will face a firm response by the courageous warriors of the Armed Forces of Islam, which will discredit the United States. Just like last Saturday evening, the United States will be forced to abandon its expansionist and bullying stances with disgrace. Despite the fact that the United States has, as usual, denied its humiliating role in this affair, one wonders whether the Americans would still have denied their direct involvement had they succeeded in preventing the inspection of the Greek ship. The denial of facts has now become one of the principles of Reagan's government. We should not forget that the United States denied everything about the McFarlane episode. It claimed that, basically, nothing had taken place at all and that Islamic Iran's story had originated in a dream.

However, time has proved that it is in fact the Washington statesmen who are dreaming. They think that by denying facts they can make the world ignore their foolish and unjustifiable moves. The subsequent chain of events forced the United States to adopt a reactive stance, on the one hand, and on the other hand to resort to measures which have lost Washington its remaining prestige as a superpower.

What happened in the Persian Gulf last Saturday evening, and the foolish action by the U.S. military in trying to prevent Iran from implementing its legal measures, was in fact completed and found its natural course thanks to subsequent denial by the United States of the details of the incident. [sentence as heard] The United States has never accepted responsibility for its foolish policies, particularly when its moves are aborted. Current events show that the days of America's glory as a superpower are over; it would be in the interest of that country to come to terms with the realities of the contemporary world. It is certain that eventually it will have to return to its geographical borders, for refusal to do so will change the course of events against the interests of the United States. Ultimately, the United States will have to concede failure with the usual shame and disgrace. It will have to give up the idea of bullying in a world where every nation has risen to regain its rights.

Congress on 'Holy Shrines' Continues in Tehran

Sha'ban on Saudi 'Crimes'

LD232304 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—Leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban said here today that the Saudi regime viewing the hajj antipathy towards infidels' rally in Mecca as a crime, slaughtered defenceless pilgrims.

Speaking at the International Congress on Sanctity and Security of Haramayn (the two holy shrines in Mecca and Medina), the Lebanese shaykh noted the Saudi regime's total subservience to the U.S. and said, when hajj pilgrims burned the U.S. flag, the Saudi regime began the massacre in a bid to avenge the act on U.S. behalf.

Pointing to the 'alliance of blasphemy' against Islam, Shaykh Sha'ban said the Arab summit meet in Amman was the biggest ever neo-jahiliya [reference to the pre-Islamic era, implying a time of ignorance] conference. "It stood against Islam, termed Islam as the major danger and paved the way for an alliance with the Zionist state of Israel, whereas its (conference) duty was to confront Zionism," said Sha'ban.

"They should know that we will block this path of ignorance," he added emphatically.

"It is this neo-jahiliya which invited U.S. fleets to our coasts," he said, reflecting on the wretchedness of the reactionary states who vainly fancy to be safe from Allah's wrath, by imploring the protection of these fleets.

The four-day congress opened here Monday with participation of 300 leading scholars from the Muslim world.

Further Report

LD242042 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—The July 31 Mecca massacre of pilgrims by the Saudi police not only shocked Muslims but also each and every just-minded non-Muslim around the world, because it was undoubtedly a crime committed by Saudi rulers in league with global arrogance, said a prominent Lebanese alim here Tuesday.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the Sunni-Muslim head of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement said, questioned the Saudi rulers' statement that they perpetrated such an act to protect the sanctity of Allah's secure house. [sentence as received]

Shaykh Sha'ban here to participate in an international congress on the sanctity and security of the Haramayn (holy shrines in Mecca and Medina), expressed hope that the decisions made by the congress could help solve the question of the administration of the holy shrines by the Muslim world, and cutting the hands of the Saudi Wahhabi rulers from Mecca and Medina.

On the Amman Arab summit, Sha'ban said that its outcome revealed the extreme villiany of reactionary Arab regimes in their rapprochement with the Zionist regime.

The Lebanese alim castigated pro-U.S. heads of Arab states for their reconciliation with the Zionist regime and their attempts to portray the Islamic Republic as an enemy.

Pointing to the disclosure of covert ties between certain Arab regimes and the regime occupying holy Qods, Sha'ban stressed that the futile efforts of these regimes to divert public opinion of their Muslim nations will only lead to further awakening of the Islamic ummah.

Fadlallah on Mecca 'Massacre'

LD242043 Tehran IRNA in English 1852 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese alim, Al-Allamah Sa'id Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah currently here to take part in the international congress on the sanctity and securiy of the Haramayn explained the root cause of July 31 Mecca massacre, Tuesday.

In an interview with IRNA he said this catastrophe should be discussed from two sides: First the instability of the Saudi rulers due to the awakening of the Hejaz (so-called Saudi Arabia) people, and secondly the presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf.

Al-Allamah Fadlallah noted that the U.S. engineered the plot in order to portray Iran as a danger to reactionary Arab regimes.

On the Amman Arab summit Fadlallah said that the holding of the summit was aimed at diverting the Arab struggle against the Zionist regime towards the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The omission of the Palestine issue from the summit's agenda and the portrayal of the Iran-Iraq war as a threat to the Arab nation, were feverish attempts to cover up the treason of reactionary head of Arab states, said Al-Allamah Fadlallah.

He said that the reactionary Arab regimes' decision to renew ties with the Egyptian regime not only betrayed their approval of the "treacherous" Camp David accord but also revealed their covert relations with the Zionist regime. Fadlallah added, all these efforts certainly show the beginning of peace talks with the regime occupying Qods.

Another speaker on the second day of the congress was Muhammad Mahdi al-Tayyib from Sudan who had participated in the rally of 'antipathy towards infidels' in Mecca on July 31 and was an eyewitness to the whole gruesome event. Al-Tayyib condemning the Saudi regime for the massacre of pilgrims, emphasized the need to hold such congresses. He added that it is incumbent upon Muslims to return to the genuine Islamic hajj from the present gathering of 'Jahiliya'.

Al-Tayyib noted that the carnage of pilgrims who were peacefully participating in the 'antipathy towards unbelievers' rally in Mecca caused those responsible for this crime to be branded as infidels.

Washington Imam on Hajj Incidents

NC251010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Dr Muhammad al-'Asi, Friday imam of the Washington mosque, is taking part in the congress on safeguarding the sanctity and security of the two holy shrines. In an interview with our correspondent, he commented on the Al Sa'ud regime's intentions concerning the incidents in Mecca on Bloody Friday. He declared: The role of Al Sa'ud and the United States in the Mecca massacre should be taken into account. He added: The Saudi regime did not act on its own in this crime; rather, it was committed in coordination with the United States. We should point out that the Al Sa'ud regime felt its years of psychological warfare against Iranian pilgrims had been ineffective. Therefore, the Mecca incident was actually an overt act of war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Pakistani, Turkish Clerics Cited

LD241356 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—The Great Satan's (U.S.) double aim of Mecca July 31 catastrophe was to divert the Arab's attention from the Zionist regime to Iran and bring forces to the Persian Gulf, said the leader of Pakistani Shi'ites Hussain Arif al-Hussaini here Monday.

Speaking at the international congress on the sanctity and security of the Haramayn (the two holy shrines in Mecca and Medina) Al-Hussaini said that the U.S. failed in fulfilling its intention.

Al-Hussaini pointed to the foundation of Wahhabi sect by Britain and said that Wahhabism was formed as a sect to sow discord among Muslims and to demolish Muslim unity.

He also said that Haramayn belongs to all Muslims and they should be ministered by pious representatives of Muslim states.

The Saudi police attacked the "antipathy towards infidels" rally of Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims on July 31 killing at least 400 of them and wounding 2,000.

Another speaker of the day was the Turkish Sunni alim, Muhammad Saem, who said that Mecca catastrophe hurt the world Muslims and demonstrated the atrocities of Saudi mercenaries, adding that he took part in the rally and eyed Saudi men throwing stones and bricks on the marchers.

He said that one of the stones hit him on the head and severely injured him. While badly bleeding, Saem said, he went to a hospital which refused to admit him because 'they mistook him for an Iranian'.

Outside the hospital he witnessed that six Iranian pilgrims were martyred by Saudi police bullets, said Saem.

He added that the major cause behind the catastrophe is the U.S. which intends to divide Muslims.

The Sunni alim concluded that the holy Ka'ba is occupied by the Saudi dynasty as Al-Aqsa' mosque (in the occupied Palestine) is by the Zionists.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,030

LD241648 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 24, IRNA—The number of Iraqi soldiers killed or wounded in the Iranian Nasr-9 operations in Hajj 'Umran region, northeastern Iraq, exceeded 3,500 Tuesday, while POWs transferred behind the fronts reached 99, said a military communique here today.

The 3030th Joint Staff communique added that an Iraqi warplane was shot down in Panjwin, western fronts, by Iranian anti-aircraft fire Tuesday.

Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Zobeydah, southern sector, at 08:10 hours local time (04:40 GMT) Tuesday, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on enemy troops and returning safely to bases.

Another five Iraqi multiple-missile launchers and four munitions dumps were set ablaze in the Nasr-9 operational theater Monday.

Iran's Muslim combatants smashed two Iraqi counterattacks in the Nasr-9 operational theater Monday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops and forcing them to retreat.

In the southern fronts, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 15 enemy gun emplacements, two munitions dumps and several vehicles were destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Monday.

In Panjwin, Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy losses on Iraqi armoured units Monday.

Several Iraqi motorized units moving in Darband, Varas and Gerdehmand, northwestern fronts, suffered heavy losses when brought under Iranian artillery fire Monday.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched six cargo ships and oil tankers Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Iranian naval forces also released the impounded Greek ship '*Jmulta*' late Monday from a southern port where it had been brought for thorough inspection on November 21, concluded the communique.

Communications Bridge Bombed

LD251110 Tehran IRNA in English 1106 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—Iranian fighter bombers heavily bombed a communication bridge and one supply route in Iraq's Al-'Amarah Province at 08:20 hours local time (04:50 GMT) Wednesday, inflicting considerable damage.

All jet fighters returned home safely.

Army Bases Destroyed

LD241210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] According to a report from Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, a number of operations have been launched in conjunction with the Peshmergas of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq. While taking complete control of a battalion headquarters northeast of Zakhu and destroying 11 of the Zionist enemy's bases, heavy losses and other casualties were inflicted on the Zionists. More than 90 Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded in these operations, and 40 were taken prisoner by the Peshmergas. The Peshmergas also destroyed five military vehicles and took a large quantity of arms and ammunition as booty. The equipment seized included three light machine guns, other weapons and ammunition, several RPG-7's, and a number of two-way radios.

The same report, quoting Ramadan Headquarters, adds: The Peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Iraq, in the course of another series of operations near the village of Tawakkul on the Kirkuk-Irbil road, 40 km from Kirkuk, managed to capture the headquarters of the 72d Khafifah Battalion and nine nearby bases. Some 100 Saddamist troops were killed or wounded in these actions. The battalion's second in command, Muhammad Reza Hamawandi, is among the dead. The Peshmergas also took 30 Iraqi soldiers prisoner. In addition, the peshmergas seized a variety of vehicles and considerable quantitites of arms and ammunition as booty.

We should point out that the Zionist enemy launched two counterattacks to recapture this region, both of which ended in failure.

Kurds Attack Makhmur

LD232118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] A communique from Ramaoan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, notes that in the past week, Peshmerga of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan attacked a security base in the town of Makhmur in Iraq's Irbil Province, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

During these operations by Iraqi warriors, an economic center and a gas station in Makhmur were set ablaze. A large number of Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded.

Pakistan

Austrian President Waldheim Continues Visit

Feted by Ziaul Haq

BK2406Z5 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has affirmed that the Afghan crisis is a global issue which will shake the conscience of the international community until the brave Afghan people get back their territory, dignity, and honor. The president made this statement at a dinner which he hosted in honor of the Austrian president, Dr Kurt Waldheim, in Islamabad last night. The president thanked Austria for its principled stand on the Afghanistan issue. He said the importance of this support today is more significant than ever before in view of the fact that 123 countries have supported Pakistan's stand and have reiterated their demand for the restoration of Afghanistan's sovereignty, political freedom, and nonaligned status.

Referring to the Iran-Iraq war, which has caused a heavy loss of life and property, the president expressed hope that the efforts being made by the Islamic Conference Organization, the UN Secretary General, and the UN Security Council will prove fruitful and that a peaceful solution to this problem will be found.

Commenting on relations between Pakistan and Austria, he said that they are free of tension. A long tradition of mutual goodwill and understanding exists between the two countries. As a result of Dr Waldheim's special attention, he noted that new avenues of economic cooperation have opened between the two countries. He described the current visit of the Austrian president as a milestone in bilateral relations and said that this will further strengthen these ties, as well as open up new vistas of cooperation.

Referring to yesterday's exchange of views on matters of mutual interest, he affirmed that he had benefited from the knowledge, experience, and insight of Dr Waldheim.

The president paid glowing tribute to Dr Waldheim's distinguished status, personality, and (?statesmanship) as Austria has taken a dignified place among the countries of the world. He praised Austria for its significant role as a nonaligned nation in establishing better understanding between East and West and stability in the world.

In his speech Dr Waldheim said that the Afghanistan issue should be settled soon and that the Iran-Iraq war should be terminated so that peace could be established in the region. He noted that Pakistan and Austria agree that the United Nations is an effective institution for solving international issues. This world body can play a significant role with regard to this issue, he added, and both Austria and Pakistan support the efforts being made by the UN Secretary General. He reaffirmed his country's support for the efforts undertaken by the United Nations and the ICO to end the Iran-Iraq war. Making special reference to Pakistan's significant efforts as a member of the ICO peace committee, he expressed his hope for future success.

With regard to the Middle East, the Austrian president fully supported the view that a UN-sponsored international conference should be convened. He said that for a just solution to this problem, it is essential to bear in mind the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people and to include the PLO in the process of talks [break in transmission] representative organization.

He praised Pakistan's policy on South Asia which seeks to promote international cooperation and find peaceful solutions to regional disputes. He especially lauded Pakistan's efforts to normalize relations with India.

Commenting on bilateral relations, Dr Waldheim said that as a result of his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, these ties will improve and deepen. The talks held between the delegations of the two countries have helped to provide a basic structure for practical cooperation in technical, economic, and scientific fields. The Austrian president extended an invitation to the Pakistani president to visit Austria and expressed hope that Ziaul Haq will make a visit in the near future.

At a special function in Islamabad yesterday evening, President Ziaul Haq conferred the highest Pakistani civil award, Nishan-i Pakistan, on Dr Kurt Waldheim. This award was given to him in recognition of his significant services toward stabilizing the cordial relations between Pakistan and Austria.

Makes Banquet Toast

AU241532 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 24 Nov 87 p 3

[Text] APA—Yesterday, in his toast at a state banquet in Islamabad, President Kurt Waldheim called for a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan conflict within the framework of the United Nations. Waldheim expressed the hope that Pakistan's President Mohammad Ziaul Haq will bring to bear his great influence at the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to achieve an end of the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

In his speech Waldheim thanked Ziaul Haq for the invitation for his 3-day state visit and the friendly welcome he had been given in Pakistan. He said that he found great readiness on both sides to further deepen the already excellent relations between Vienna and Islamabad. He said he had very good memories of his previous visits to Pakistan, in his capacity as UN secretary general, and it was a great "joy and personal satisfaction" for him "to meet not only a recognized and outstanding head of state but also a valued long-standing friend" in the person of the Pakistani head of state.

Referring to international questions, Waldheim stressed that Austria is fully aware of the "delicate and difficult" situation which confronts Pakistan because of the political events in the neighboring country of Afghanistan and the resulting "enormous refugee problem." Pakistan's dedicated help to these "poorest of the poor" is admired by Austria, which has been the destination of refugees for many years. Although aid to alleviate the refugees' misery must remain the most urgent concern, one must not keep quiet about the need for "comprehensive political efforts" to prevent further human tragedies.

"As in the case of the Afghanistan problem, our two countries consider the United Nations as the appropriate framework for solving international questions," the president stressed. "I am pleased to be able to say that the two of us recognize the important contribution which the United Nations can make in this respect and support the secretary general's efforts in his search for peace."

Austria is deeply concerned about the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, which not only threatens stability and security in the entire region but has also conjured up dangers to world peace, Waldheim continued. Austria supports the UN efforts for mediation, but also places hope on analogous efforts of the ICO in which Pakistan plays a leading role. It is to hope that the peace committee of the ICO, which is chaired by Ziaul Haq, will be able "with God's help" to contribute to ending the bloody fight in the Gulf.

In the Middle East conflict too, all efforts of the United Nations and the international community have so far not been able to bring about a peaceful solution, said the Austrian president. All initiatives and resolutions, including the Arab peace plan, have remained a "dead letter" because no agreement on an adequate forum for talks has been reached. Therefore, Austria sees with pleasure that the idea of an international Middle East conference under UN auspices is gaining increasing support.

This proposal meets with the full support of the Austrian Government, which has always been of the opinion that a solution to the conflict can be achieved only when considering the "legitimate interests of all parties concerned." "Any just settlement must also take into consideration the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, who should participate in the negotiations through representatives of the PLO," the Austrian president said.

Austria, which for its part is continuously trying to achieve a climate of understanding and cooperation in its region, highly appreciates Pakistan's policy, which is aimed at promoting peace in southern and south-west Asia, Waldheim assured. Therefore, the latest decision to push ahead the process of normalizing relations with its neighbor, India, has been received with particular satisfaction in Vienna.

In all his works the poet Mohammad Iqbal, who is revered in Pakistan as the "father of the nation," warned against nationalism, racism, and narrow-minded love for the fatherland, "these negative loyalties which draw borders, separate peoples, and then result in conflict and war." Waldheim concluded and emphasized: "Looking back on our own historical experience, we Austrians share this noble thought and feel obligated to the same ideals."

Refutes Austrian Criticism

AU242052 Vienna Television Service in German 1830 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Barbara Stenzl report]

[Text] Today, during his state visit to Pakistan, Kurt Waldheim answered SPOe [Socialist Party of Austria] floor leader Fischer, who criticized Waldheim's statement yesterday calling Pakistani President Ziaul Haq an outstanding head of state. Fischer pointed out that Ziaul Haq came into power by a military coup and had had his predecessor executed. In reply to the question if he had been struck by SPOe floor leader Fischer's criticism, Waldheim said:

[Begin recording] By no means, for the visit was coordinated with the Austrian chancellor. He also personally bade me farewell at the airport and we both were convinced that the visit is justified for several reasons, above all, and not the least, on account of the economic advantages for our country; and thus it came about. I only can state once again that it is not in the interest of the Austrians to use such a visit for criticism. In my opinion—and this is also the opinion of the economic experts accompanying me—this visit has considerably contributed to expanding our trade relations with Pakistan. [end recording]

Today a further reaction came from the President's Office on another reproach by SPOe floor leader Heinz Fischer, that is, that Waldheim criticized the controversial statements of former OeVP [Austrian People's Party] Secretary General Graff [in an interview for French magazine *L'Express*] only after he had resigned. The President's Office stresses that Waldheim did not know of Graff's resignation. The fact that Waldheim's critical words and Graff's resignation were made public almost at the same time is a coincidence.

PRC President Departs After Brief Stopover

BK241536 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] China's President Li Xiannian left Karachi for home today after a brief stopover. He was seen off by Sind Governor Ashraf Tabani and others. He had arrived in Karachi last night on his way to Beijing from Belgium.

Sri Lanka

IPKF Continues Anti-LTTE Operations

Weapons, Ammo Found

BK241237 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English1130 GMT 24 Nov 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 24 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) resuming its search for terrorist weapons in northern Sri Lanka yesterday after a 48-hour ceasefire ended at 0700 hours (local time), carried out a search in Jaffna and captured 34 grenades and 5,200 rounds of ammunition, official sources told *Lanka Puwath*. The grenades were found in a house in Jaffna town near the junction of the Kachcheri, Kandy and Old Park Roads.

A girl was seriously wounded and rushed to hospital after a terrorist grenade aimed at the IPKF hit her during the Jaffna town operation.

The ammunition was seized at Sitankerny.

A report from Killinochchi states that LTTE terrorists yesterday hijacked a truckload of essential food containing 100 bags of flour, 75 bags of sugar, 10 bags of rice and cash rs. 8,000. The owner of the truck later found the vehicle abandoned at Mauranmoddai.

W S T Fernando, a fisherman of Trincomalee, reported the loss of his boat, net and fishing gear of a total value of rs. 200,000.

At Vavuniya a medical practitioner complained to the police that a PLOTE terrorist had robbed his Morris Oxford car.

Meanwhile a report from Panadura, 18 miles south of Colombo, states that two hardcore subversives were arrested, while the Ambanpola police reported that they had arrested a suspect who had an unlicensed gun in his possession.

More Weapons Discovered

BK241632 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] The peacekeeping force [PKF] in Sri Lanka today recovered huge quantities of ammunition, explosives, hand grenades and mines during the search operations in Jaffna, Atchuveli, Chavakachcheri, and (Marturmadam).

The AIR correspondent, Sundaram Subramaniam, reporting from Jaffna says the PKF recovered 4,000 rounds of ammunition meant for heavy machineguns, sophisticated rifles, and rocket launchers. He also said that one jawan [soldier] was killed by a booby trap set by the LTTE in Atchuveli.

No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the peninsula. The PKF airlifted 3 tons of essential commodities and life-saving drugs to Chavakachcheri. All educational institutions in the peninsula will reopen tomorrow.

LTTE Ambush Foiled

BK250358 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, intelligence reports say that the LTTE leadership has asked their cadres to prepare fictitious cases of atrocities on the people by the PKF.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday, this is apparently aimed at maligning the PKF. It is also to be used as a ploy to prevent the LTTE cadres from laying down their arms. Reports also confirm that the top LTTE leaders are unhappy with their middle and lower rank cadres on the issue of laying down arms.

At least five LTTE men were killed in Sri Lanka yesterday when the peacekeeping force swooped on a LTTE hideout in jungles in Kiran area 25 km north of Batticaloa. Official sources told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that the PKF surrounded the area following information that the LTTE has plans to ambush it. Helicopter gunships were used to provide an air cover. A large quantity of arms and ammunition were also recovered.

Meanwhile, the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, met the Sri Lankan Freedom Party leader, Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike, as part of the Indian offer to mobilize all segments of opinion in support of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement and devolution of power.

India has launched massive relief operations in Jaffna peninsula. An Indian high commission official said in Colombo about 2,000 tons of food and medical supplies have been sent for free distribution in Jaffna town and in the peninsula. Another 4,000 tons of supplies are in the pipeline.

The official said medical teams of PKF and the Indian Red Cross are setting up medical centers. The Jaffna Hospital has started functioning. Public transport service has been restored. Vehicles are plying from the peninsula to other parts of the island. The Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank have resumed their work in Jaffna.

The Manila based Asian Development Bank has approved a concessional loan of U.S. dollar 20 million for the restoration work in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces.

More on Clash With LTTE

BK251509 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Colombo, Nov 25 (AFP)—Indian troops have killed at least nine Tamil rebels in what officials here Wednesday said was the first big confrontation since a 48-hour Indian-declared ceasefire ended Monday morning. The Indian High Commission here confirmed an incident during stepped-up operations, but said it had no details.

Officials said Indian helicopter gunships late Tuesday attacked Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) gunmen lying in ambush for an Indian convoy near Pulipanchakal village in Batticaloa District, 300 kilometres east of Colombo. "It was a pre-emptive attack (because) the Indian troops had received information about the ambush from the residents," the Sri Lankan official said.

Two of the LTTE gunmen died in the attack and the rest fled across a lake in boats, the official said. The helicopter gunships then attacked the boats, killing eight LTTE men, he said, adding their bodies were recovered Wednesday.

Residents said the LTTE appeared to have suffered heavy casualties, but at least one fighter committed suicide by swallowing cyanide to avoid capture.

The fighting in the Batticaloa District erupted barely 12-hours after New Delhi turned down an Indian opposition demand to invite LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran for talks to try to persuade him to lay down arms.

Tamil sources here said renewed fighting indicated that peace moves by the LTTE's deputy leader S. Krishnakuma, alias Kittu, with the influential chief minister of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, M. G. Ramachandran, had failed.

A High Commission spokesman said there were Indian "vigorous" search operations in the Northern and Eastern provinces hunting LTTE men and looking for weapons. Large quantities of arms and explosives were recovered in the operations, he said without elaborating.

Indian troops have also set up more check points and road blocks in the Batticaloa District to prevent the rebels' escape or their getting reinforcements from other areas, officials said.

The New Delhi-declared ceasefire, announced in a bid to encourage a surrender of weapons by the LTTE, ended without results after the rebels forwarded new conditions for laying down arms and India rejected the proposals as "unacceptable."

The High Commission spokesman said Indian troops continued to hunt LTTE men and look for weapons even during the ceasefire. "We had only agreed not to fire first," he said.

Nearly 1,100 people, mostly Tamil rebels, have died since the Indian troops launched an offensive on October 8 after the LTTE repudiated a July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact aimed at ending four years of Tamil separatist violence.

Indian and Sri Lankan officials have said there can be no negotiations with the LTTE unless they lay down their weapons to allow a complete demilitarisation of Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated provinces.

Some 20,000 Indian soldiers have been deployed in the island's Northern and Eastern provinces to enforce the peace plan.